SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 33

It's Easter, I'm taking my day off and I'm going to church. I probably won't see you there.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD, METROVIEW PAGE 26

SCORE A CHEAP CONDO

TIPS FOR THE RENTAL MARKET PAGE 38

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 High 14°C/Low 4°C Shady

FIVE WAYS TO CYCLE SAFER PAGES 14-15

Woman gets death threats over period pic

SOCIAL MEDIA

Brampton artist says messages of support help with negativity

PRABH KAUR/FACEBOOK

Rupi Kaur says all she wanted to do was start a conversation.

But the 22-year-old Brampton artist never expected to receive death threats over a photo she posted online.

"When I created it, I knew I was tackling a very heavy topic and I knew that it was something that people didn't really want to see," Kaur said Wednesday.

The photo in question depicts a woman on her period, lying in bed with blood stains on her pants and the bed sheets.

"I thought they'd be uncomfortable, but I didn't think they'd be offended to such a level that they would be saying the things they're saying," Kaur said.

On March 25, Instagram removed the photo from the site. The company deleted the image a second time after Kaur reposted it, and Kaur said her photo then "went from being a class project to almost like a form of protest." Instagram re-instated the photograph shortly thereafter.

Kaur said messages of support helped her cope with the threats.

"I think it's been interesting to see that, yeah, there's so much negativity surrounding it," she said, "but you also have these wonderful people from all over the world, people that you couldn't even imagine, reach out to you." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LOOK, BUT DON'T BUY

Increased interest in bunnies can lead to abandoned animals after Easter. Page 19

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

It's a 3D-printed hand! Page 25

Transit head says video doesn't tell whole story

SLUGLINE

Andy Byford says there was no fare dispute

TTC CEO Andy Byford is defending the transit system's enforcement unit even after asking Toronto police to investigate an incident in which two uniformed TTC officers repeatedly punched two men at Union Station after a hockey game.

The transit enforcement officers have been placed on desk duty pending the outcome of the investigation. The two hockey fans are facing criminal charges.

The Jan. 29 incident, caught on video, shows a crowd watching the conflict.

Byford said he only became aware of the disturbing video Tuesday, when the scenes, circulating on social media, were published on the Toronto Star website.

The TTC's enforcement unit had reviewed closed circuit TV footage and the officers' reports on the fight weeks earlier.

The video, which Premier Kathleen Wynne called "very violent and frightening," has sparked questions about the role and the oversight of transit cops.

While Byford receives a daily summary of incidents from the transit enforcement unit, he told Torstar News Service he doesn't remember the Jan. 29 report.

But, having reviewed the CCTV footage, Byford said the video doesn't tell the complete story.

The TTC has said there was no fare dispute involved and that the incident began after a transit officer was assaulted.

There have been no public complaints and two men have been charged by Toronto police in connection with the event. In hindsight, Byford said, the incident report should have gone further up the TTC's management ladder but, "It is a bit of a judgment call."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

METRO EXPLAINS TTC EMPLOYEES

The TTC brawl video has raised questions about use of force and accountability on the TTC. Here's a breakdown of how the TTC empowers its employees to enforce policies and maintain order on the red rocket.

Regular TTC staff
Encompassing the majority of TTC workers, from fare collectors to operators, these employees are not tasked with enforcing TTC policies.

Fare Inspectors
Fare inspectors work on the TTC's new proof-of-payment routes, like the 510 Spadina streetcar. Their primary duty is "customer service and education about the proof-of-payment system," TTC spokesman Brad Ross said.

Transit Enforcement Officers
Transit enforcement officers get 54 days of training. Transit enforcement officers have very limited powers of arrest.

TTC Special Constables
The TTC's special constables are sworn peace officers who also receive 54 days of training, plus a few more days of training on using pepper foam and grounds for arrest. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO, WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VIOLENCE

SHOT FOR SHOT: Highlights of the 6 minute, 16 second video

1. Struggle begins A transit enforcement officer struggles with a man. A second person, believed to be the man's son, intervenes and the struggle continues.

2. Punches thrown About a minute into the video, when the camera pans back to the struggle, the son is throwing punches at the transit enforcement officer.

3. Struggle moves to the ground A second transit enforcement officer arrives. The struggle, now involving both father and son, continues. The father is thrown onto the ground after being punched.

4. Another punch The man on the ground continues to struggle with the original enforcement officer on the scene. About 30 seconds later, the officer punches the man in the ribs.

5. More punches The video then pans back up to the second struggle that's broken out, involving the son. A transit enforcement officer is throwing punches at the son.

6. Help arrives Police officers are seen for the first time a little more than five minutes into the clip.

7. In custody Suspects are charged with assaulting the transit officers, according to police and the TTC.

MORE COVERAGE ONLINE
see the full video at metronews.ca

PROSTITUTION

Ontario probe finds law constitutional

Ontario will uphold Canada's new prostitution law after a review by the province's attorney general found it to be constitutional, Premier Kathleen Wynne said Wednesday.

Wynne issued a statement the day after the law came into effect in December, saying she had a "grave concern" that it would not make sex workers safer, and asked the attorney general to review the law and advise her on the constitutional validity.

Kathleen Wynne

The premier said Wednesday that the review found the law to be constitutional so Ontario will be taking no further action "at this point."

"We'll obviously monitor and determine the impact of the law, but there's no clear unconstitutionality in the law," the premier said.

The sweeping new changes to the way prostitution is regulated in Canada follow a Supreme Court decision that found the old laws violated the rights of prostitutes.

Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur said her senior staff concluded that the new law answers concerns that the Supreme Court had about the previous law.

A coalition of sex-trade workers and their supporters disagree, saying the new law, which criminalizes paying for sex, communicating for sex or advertising sex services, is extremely similar to the old one. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"(We are) profoundly disappointed that the province appears to be turning its back on sex workers.

Statement by group representing sex workers

CONTROVERSY

Wynne calls Indiana bill 'discriminatory'

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, who is openly gay, is urging businesses upset by a so-called religious objections law in Indiana to set up shop in her province.

Critics say the Indiana law, which takes effect July 1, is designed to protect businesses and individuals who do not want to serve gays and lesbians.

Wynne says it's completely unacceptable that in the 21st century such a "discriminatory law" would be in place and would be used to divide people and create hostility.

She says she'll raise the controversial law with Indiana Gov. Mike Pence if he attends this year's meeting of Great Lakes governors and premiers.

Wynne says Ontario does "a fair bit of trade" with Indiana, and while she didn't threaten to curtail that business, she did urge companies looking for a more open, non-discriminatory jurisdiction to consider her province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safian Cheema says he's happy to have the support and friendships of the Ex-Muslims of North America. JESSICA SMITH CROSS

Lose faith, find friends

BELIEF

Group helps ex-Muslims see meaning outside religion

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A support group for ex-Muslims says it has surpassed 100 members in Toronto and continues to grow.

Ex-Muslims of North America was formed about two years ago, when former Muslims from Canada and the U.S. who had found each other on Reddit decided to create a communities offline. It's been particularly popular in the large multicultural city of Toronto, said spokesman Nas Ishmael.

"The way we look at it is if even one per cent of the people leaving Islam need a support group, that is a lot of people, and that's who we cater to," he said.

While converts can find a new support system in their new religion, those who become atheist and agnostic can find they don't have anyone, so EXMNA seeks to provide that, he said.

Safian Cheema said he found the group as he had lost his faith.

"You have this moment of, 'oh, wait,' and it kind of grows from there." he explained.

He had been feeling isolated and wrote about that online and one day Facebook's algorithm suggested EXMNA's page as one he might like.

"I clicked it and went from there," he said.

"You have an inkling of doubt, then it becomes full-blown apostasy.

Safian Cheema

He said a typical meet-up is just like any meeting of friends, but the conversation will turn things that others might not understand, like how to handle Ramadan if you're not "out" to your family.

"It's like going with your friends to a bar. We'll meet somewhere for beers, cocktails, food, just like a regular meet-up that I'd do with my other friends. We set aside a day every month," he said.

And many people aren't "out" to their families, or not completely, he said. While Cheema's siblings and friends know he's agnostic and are fine with that, his mother, who is religious, does not. But not to worry, he said; she doesn't read Metro or any news, and prefers Netflix.

At a time when the news is often dominated by Canada's war with the Islamic State and politicians' charged comments on Islam and claims of Islamophobia, the group, said Ishmael, "toes a very fine line."

EXMNA has been accused of Islamophobia by its critics, but takes issue with the way that's described, Ishmael said.

"We criticize the ideology, criticize the idea, but we do not stand for any kind of anti-Muslim bigotry of any kind," he said.

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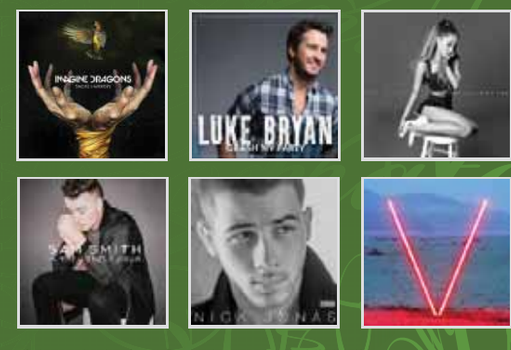

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CITY HALL

Council approves Woodbine casino draft report

A majority of councillors, including Mayor John Tory voted Tuesday night to direct the city manager to draft a report on the economic and social implications of increased gaming at the sprawling complex in Rexdale.

The executive committee will consider the report, along with the results of a public consultation, at its June 30 meeting.

A key question is whether expanded gaming at Woodbine could serve as a catalyst to other investments and job creation in a part of the city "that has often been left behind," Tory said Tuesday night on the council floor.

"I don't know if this will be the answer, or part of the answer, but I do know that we owe it to ourselves and owe it to all the people who are looking for jobs and opportunity," he told council.

During debate, several councillors made it clear they have little appetite for expanded casino gambling anywhere.

"Toronto ranks as one of the best places to live and do business, we've done all that without a casino, why would we bet that now," said Councillor Mike Layton said.

Joe Cressy, who shares a neighboring downtown ward, said gambling revenue "disproportionately comes from those who are struggling. That is not a sustainable or equitable way to build a city and generate revenue."

Tony Bitonti, OLG's senior manager, media relations, said it is true "we have seen a decline in casino revenues," particularly at border facilities due to a variety of factors, including the proliferation of casinos south of the border.

While waiting for the city's final report and council vote, OLG is accepting expressions of interest from private groups interested in being the gaming operator for the GTA.

That deadline closes April 30. OLG will then draft a short list of three to five organizations and invite them to submit final proposals. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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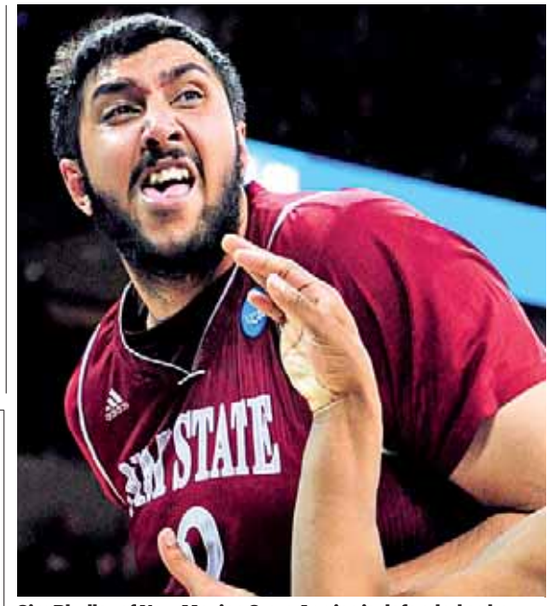

Sim Bhullar of New Mexico State Aggies is defended as he drives to the basket during the second round of the 2014 NCAA Men's Basketball tournament. STEVE DYKES/GETTY IMAGES

Toronto man to ink NBA deal

BASKETBALL

Sim Bhullar first of Indian descent to play in league

A Toronto-born man is about to make NBA history as the first player of Indian descent to play in the league.

The Sacramento Kings are signing Sim Bhullar to a 10-day contract, a person with knowledge of the deal said Wednesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Kings are not expected to announce Bhullar's deal until Thursday, when David Wear's 10-day contract expires and a roster spot opens up.

The seven-foot-five, 360-pound Bhullar is being called up from the team's NBA Development League affiliate, the Reno Bighorns. The 22-year-old centre will be on the roster Friday when the Kings host the New Orleans Pelicans.

Bhullar was born in Toronto to India-born parents and played AAU basketball with two recent No. 1 overall picks from Canada — Andrew Wiggins and Anthony Bennett.

Sacramento is intrigued by Bhullar's size and heritage.

Kings owner Vivek Ranadive is the NBA's first India-born owner and is trying to expand the league's presence in his native country.

When the Kings announced in August that Bhullar would compete for a roster spot in training camp, Ranadive called India the NBA's "next great frontier." He said Bhullar "represents one of many that will emerge from that region as the game continues to garner more attention and generate ever-increasing passion among a new generation of Indian fans."

Undrafted last year, Bhullar joined the Kings in training camp before signing with Reno. He's averaging 10.3 points, 8.8 rebounds and 3.8 blocks in David Arseneault's fast-paced system in Reno.

The Kings consider Bhullar a project, albeit a large and unfinished one. He has worked on his conditioning and keeping up with the pace of the professional game, which remains an issue, but he has shown spurts of being a presence in the middle.

In his last game Tuesday, Bhullar had 19 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks in Reno's 131-105 win over Bakersfield. He played 38 minutes. METRO/AP

Bhullar represents one of the many that will emerge from the region as the game continues to garner more attention.

Sacramento Kings owner Vivek Ranadive, discussing India as a new hotspot for NBA talent.

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(Do not) prepare to get a lot funnier

COMEDY

Second City offering more improv classes

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Faced with a surge in demand for its improv courses, Second City is expanding its training centre.

The comedy company is tacking on an additional 8,000 square feet to its space at 99 Blue Jays Way. The new wing is set to open in May and will include eight studios and a new stage for students.

"We're doubling our space," said Second City manager Erin Conway.

The school already teaches 450 improv classes every year, and Conway says demand has been steadily outpacing supply.

"I have no doubt that we'll be looking for even more space in the next two years," she said.

"People are accepting it as an art form," she said. "There may have once been this conception that comedy is a back-alley, late-night thing, but it's become far more mainstream and accessible."

When Cameron Algie's therapist told him to try improv to deal with anxiety, he was skeptical. "I thought, 'Why the hell would I want to make my anxiety worse?'" he said. "I was convinced they were going to make me dance around naked on a stage in front of people who hated me."

Algie eventually mustered the courage to attend an improv class — 10 years ago. He credits it with helping him conquer his anxiety. He's now a regular performer in Toronto's comedy scene as well as an instructor with Second City, teaching an improv for anxiety course. "I'm not a therapist or anything, but I've been through it and come out the other side."

Second City has been expanding its studios. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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HEALTH

Catholic board nominee bumped

City council has voted 20-17 to put a Toronto District School Board trustee onto the 13-member board of health, bumping the Catholic school board's nominee after critics objected to her voting record on a range of topics.

"I'm really disappointed," Angela Kennedy said Tuesday night.

"People are allowed to believe in things. I have a viewpoint which is my viewpoint. You can't discriminate against me for my beliefs," she said.

The Civic Appointments Committee recommended Kennedy's appointment — which would have made her the first representative from the Toronto Catholic District School Board in 13 years.

But her voting record as a long-standing trustee did not sit well with several councillors. Kennedy, a registered nurse for 45 years, has voted against gay-straight clubs in schools, HPV vaccinations for young girls and is opposed to abortion.

"Thankfully, council did the right thing," said Coun. Joe Mihevc, chairman of the Toronto Board of Health, who introduced the motion to replace Kennedy with Chris Glover, a public school board trustee from Etobicoke.

Angela Kennedy
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mihevc said Kennedy's "consistent" opposition to gay-straight alliances makes her unsuitable to sit as a board member.

"That's what human rights are about, and those perspectives in a public-health context just won't work."

Mayor John Tory supported Kennedy's appointment, though he said he disagrees "completely" with her views on HPV vaccinations, gay-straight alliances and a woman's right to choose.

"If we started applying every test based on whether we disagree with somebody's views on people we appoint ... it's sure going to change the nature of this place."

Councillors Paula Fletcher, Gord Perks and Joe Cressy did not support Kennedy's appointment.

Perks said Kennedy is the wrong fit because the board of health has an obligation to deliver programs that meet health standards set out in legislation.

"This isn't about whether you're trying to get people on the board of health who vote the way you feel," he said. "It is whether or not we are prepared to appoint people who support the legal mandate of the entity they are being appointed to."

Kennedy said she is looking at her options, including filing a human-rights complaint.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY NEWS

Man hit by streetcar dies of injuries

An elderly pedestrian has died after being hit by a streetcar near St. Clair Avenue W. and Arlington Avenue last month.

According to police, the 80-year-old man was trying to cross St. Clair when he was struck by an eastbound streetcar, driven by a 27-year-old man, at about 8:40 p.m. on March 20.

The pedestrian, a Toronto resident, was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries. He died in hospital on March 28.

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MASSAGE PARLOUR

Sex assault conviction for officer upheld

Toronto police Const. Mandip Sandhu was taken into custody Wednesday morning to serve a 15-month jail term, after an appeal of his conviction and sentence for sexually assaulting a masseuse was dismissed.

In written reasons, Justice Brian O'Marra dismissed several grounds of appeal raised by Sandhu's lawyers, Alan Gold and Melanie Webb, and upheld both the conviction and sentence.

O'Marra found that the trial judge did not apply a different standard of scrutiny to evidence from Sandhu and the complainant, and that his resounding rejection of Sandhu's testimony as "preposterous, ludicrous, and beyond belief." was grounded in the evidence.

Sandhu, who had been an officer for 11 years prior to his arrest in 2010, was sentenced in June 2013, after a three-day trial that ended in conviction.

He was a plainclothes officer who would check establishments for licences.

On June 3, 2010, he went alone to a massage parlour and, with his gun clearly visible, coerced a masseuse to perform oral sex on him, Ontario Court Justice John Moore found.

She testified he told her not to call the police.

Sandhu claimed that he posed as a customer and the woman told him the price for a sex act.

He testified that after he revealed he was a police officer and took down her personal information, the woman voluntarily performed oral sex on him and, in a "lapse of judgment," he did not stop her.

Last year, the complainant filed a lawsuit against Sandhu and the Toronto Police Services Board for $1.3 million.

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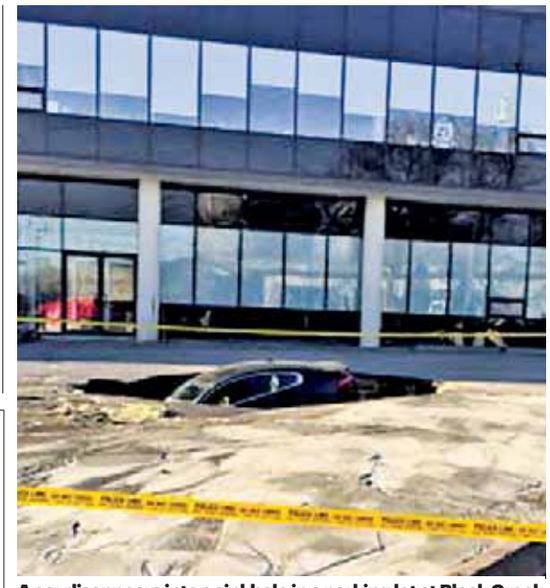

A car disappears into a sinkhole in a parking lot at Black Creek and Eglinton Wednesday. COURTESY METROLINX

Parking hits a new low

SINKHOLE

Driver escapes through car window and onto roof

Marking the start of "sinkhole season" in Toronto, a car was eaten up by a huge one at a Black Creek Drive and Eglinton Avenue West parking lot on Wednesday morning.

The driver, who didn't have time to get out of his car before it sunk deep into the dirt, was able to escape unharmed.

"He got out through his window and climbed onto the roof of his car," said Metrolinx spokesperson Anne Marie Aikins.

Aikins had sent a crew out to the Todd Baylis Boulevard and Industry Street area to make sure the sinkhole was not caused by nearby construction of the Eglinton Crosstown.

The crew was able to confirm the sinkhole was unrelated to the construction.

Police are advising drivers to use caution in the area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'NO PUBLIC SAFETY'

Get Uber app off city phones: Councillor

City councillor Jim Karygiannis said he will likely introduce a motion at next month's council meeting to have the popular car-hailing app Uber removed from city-owned Smartphones.

"I wouldn't feel safe if my daughter or my wife were to get in (an) Uber cab with some of the stuff that has happened with the Uber drivers," Karygiannis said.

"There's no insurance. There's no public safety as far as police (background checks) are concerned."

The motion asks the city's Chief Administrative Officer to remove the app from 12,000 city-issued phones, though Karygiannis does not know how many of those phones have actually downloaded the app.

His action comes days after 13 UberX drivers were charged with operating a taxi without the proper licence or insurance in an undercover sting operation, leaving drivers who use the Smartphone app feeling besieged.

"It's bad enough what police are doing," said one UberX driver who asked not to be identified for fear of legal repercussions. "There's a huge demand for (Uber); why be a hypocrite about it?"

Karygiannis would not speculate on the likelihood of his motion passing in council.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Pioneer In-Dash CD Car Deck

• Front Aux/ Front USB

DEHX4700 • 50W x 4

Hot Buy!

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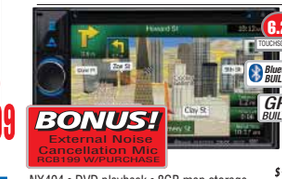

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Toronto student studios showcase game projects

TECHNOLOGY

Designers from 16 schools will display games at Level Up

Deborah Hernandez
For Metro | Toronto

Prepare to eat, run, jump, fly, cook, shoot enemies, solve puzzles and fight for your life in video games set to make their debut in Toronto.

More than 70 games will be tested — and likely enjoyed — during Thursday's Level Up Showcase. The games were designed by students from 16 schools across Ontario including University of Toronto, Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD), York, George Brown and Humber.

Steve Engels, an organizer and co-founder of Level Up, is a senior lecturer in computer science at UofT. He said Toronto has always been fertile soil for the gaming industry.

"Toronto is known for its indie landscape, with game developers who like to experiment by making things less cookie cutter and more imaginative," he said.

But now that the Ontario government is offering incentives programs similar to those in British Columbia and Quebec, Engels said, Toronto has been attracting medium- to large-sized companies like Ubisoft.

Level Up began as several small, isolated shows that took place at different schools so students from each could show off what they made.

Now that all the schools are showcasing their games in one place, it's easier for people in the industry to explore them, and maybe pick them up for distribution.

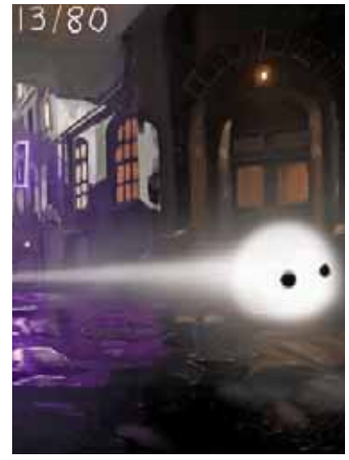
"The showcase is like watching our little fledgling take wings," Engels says. "We get to watch students we've been mentoring for four months get validated by showing people what they're capable of."

The showcase runs today from 5 to 10 p.m. at The Design Exchange at 234 Bay St.

70

More than 70 video games will be tested at this year's Level Up showcase. The event runs today from 5 to 10 p.m. at The Design Exchange.

A team comprised of University of Toronto and Ontario College of Art and Design students demonstrate their fourth-year project Avoid, an interstellar video game of sumo space dodgeball, at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology. The team will enter its project into the fifth annual Level Up Showcase on Thursday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO



Screenshots from Lightwalker and Pitfall, two of the many student-developed video games that will be up for a trial during the showcase. CONTRIBUTED

LEVELLED UP GAME DESIGNING

Nintendo takes notice of George Brown's 13AM

Runbow, an action party game from 13AM Games, a studio based out of George Brown College, won the award for best game design at Level Up last year.

That wasn't the big prize for the upstart studio, as their game caught the attention of Nintendo, which picked it up for distribution. Runbow will soon be available on Nintendo's Wii U.

DEBORAH HERNANDEZ/FOR METRO

HIGH SCHOOL

Five-year grad rate up to 84%

Ontario's high school graduation rate for 2014 was up to 84 per cent for students who take five years to complete the four-year curriculum, an increase of 16 percentage points in a decade.

The four-year graduation rate was 76 per cent, up 20 percentage points since 2004.

The Liberal government says it remains committed to reaching an 85 per cent graduation rate.

Premier Kathleen Wynne says an additional 163,000 students have graduated than would have if the government hadn't taken steps to help them complete high school.

This also marks the first year the government is releasing graduation rates for individual school boards across the province, which Wynne says will help parents, teachers and students find areas for improvement.

The premier says helping more students succeed is part of the Liberal government's economic plan for the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

President to return payment

Western University president Amit Chakma has voluntarily refunded the sabbatical payment after his nearly $1 million salary last year was publicly disclosed.

Chakma usually earns about $440,000, but received more than double that after working through his planned sabbatical year.

Chakma says he will also give up payment in lieu of administrative leave at the end of the following term in 2019.

Western University's board of governors says it has hired former judge Stephen Goudge to review the president's compensation practices.

The moves come after the release of the province's annual sunshine list showed Chakma's was paid $967,000 in 2014.

The board says Chakma's contract is in line with other institutions, but will implement the recommendations that come from Goudge's review.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Government memos creating new IT issues: Report

Staff in Ontario's welfare and disability support offices say government memos on how to fix ongoing, "weekly" problems with a $245-million computer system are causing even more headaches.

The front-line staff complaints are contained in an interim report, released Wednesday, on the problem-plagued rollout of the Social Assistance Management System. The Liberal government commissioned a review by PricewaterhouseCoopers, but the interim report draws no conclusions about the government's handling of the system that issues welfare and disability support payments.

The review, which comes with a nearly $200,000 price tag, is to be released with a final report in a few weeks, but will not address a number of key areas.

PricewaterhouseCoopers says its review does not cover an assessment of the project's performance since inception, does not assess the overall system or infrastructure performance of SAMS and will not provide an opinion on the "functional or technical readiness" of the system.

Since it was released late last year, SAMS has been experiencing issues, notably queuing up $20 million in welfare and disability support overpayments in December. The government has earmarked an extra $5 million to help with costs associated with SAMS problems such as staff overtime.

The ministry has addressed most of the 57 priority issues, and has had to start addressing system issues and defects on a weekly basis, the report says.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said the report acknowledges there are problems with the system and there is a lot more work to be done.

"My hope is there will be some specific recommendations about how to move forward," she said.

The opposition parties called for Community and Social Services Minister Helena Jaczek to resign over what they call the SAMS debacle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OPPOSITION

NDP, PCs question report

PC critic Bill Walker pondered the worth of the report, asking why it was necessary if you're not going to address the problem. NDP leader Andrea Horwath said the report merely repeated what the union had previously detailed about the problems faced by front-line staff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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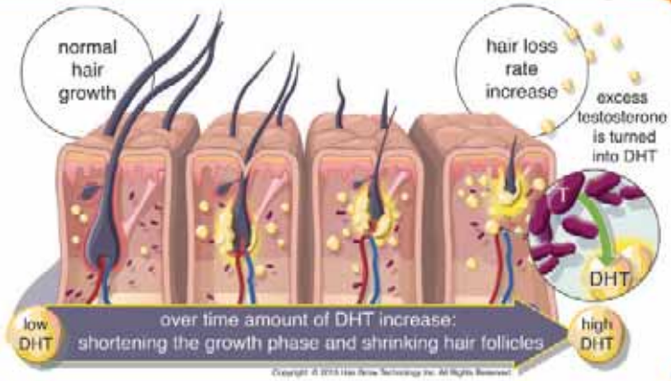
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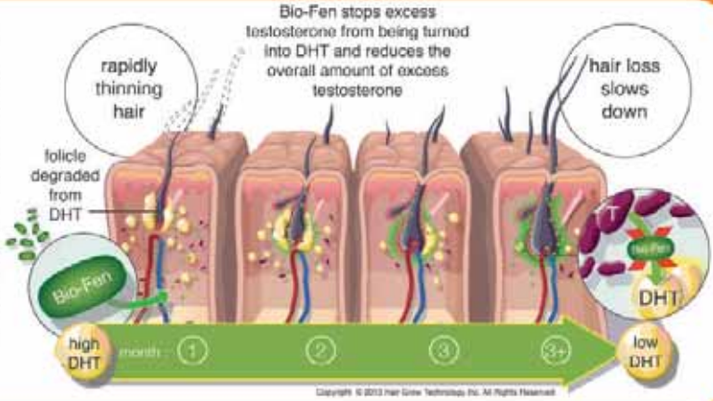
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5 THINGS TO MAKE YOUR BIKE RIDE SAFER (AND MORE STYLISH)

Volvo has just unveiled Life Paint, an aerosol spray that creates an invisible coating that glows white when hit by headlights. The Swedish automaker said the paint can be applied to all fabrics and bicycle frames and lasts for about a week. It's currently being tested in England. There's no word on when, or if, it will be available in Canada. But there are plenty of other high-tech options for cyclists who are serious about safety.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

NIKLAS CARLSSON/FLICKR

1 Hovdig

Hailing from Sweden, this company has manufactured an "airbag for cyclists" that folds down into a small, and fairly fashionable, collar. When motion sensors in the collar detect an impending collision, the airbag inflates to protect the cyclist's head and neck.

COURTESY RIDEHELIOS.COM

2 Helios handlebars

If hand signals aren't your thing, then Helios has you covered. The company's handlebars come in three styles — drop, straight and bull-horn — and feature a built-in headlight along with thumb-activated right and left turning signals. The handlebars also feature smartphone integration and GPS tracking.

COURTESY SEESENSE.COM

3 See Sense lights

This intelligent bicycle light monitors your movement and environment and responds accordingly to make you the most visible. For example, when the See Sense light detects you're approaching an intersection, it will flash faster and brighter.

FACEBOOK

4 Torch bike helmet

Never worry about forgetting your bike light at home with this high-tech helmet. The Torch T1 helmet features 10 integrated front and rear lights and can be charged via USB.

COURTESY OF LOUDBICYCLE.COM

5 The Loud Bicycle Horn

This popular Kickstarter project attaches to your bike frame and is capable of emitting a 122-decibel blast that mimics a car horn. "Drivers react to car horns before they even look. A driver that gets beeped at while backing out of a driveway or entering traffic will immediately brake. These kinds of reflexive reactions are perfect to keep cyclists safe," say the horn's designers.

ASK THE EXPERTS

Metro asked a few local purveyors of bicycle swag what gear makes them feel safe on the road. Here's what they had to say.

JILL ALLEN, MANAGER AT SWEET PETE'S BIKE SHOP

Helmet: "I recently switched from your standard black helmet to a more high-visibility one," Allen said.

Lights: The Bontrager Flare light, a USB rechargeable light that can be seen from as far away as two kilometres. "It's about being seen before it's too late," she said.

Bell: The ORP Smart Bike Horn and Light. "The standard bell doesn't get heard very well over all of the city's noise," she said. "This one has two settings: One is like a friendly tweet ... the other is a really loud horn, similar to what you'd find in car."

Clothes: Allen said a number of her staff wear the Sugoi Zap Jacket, which boasts a top-to-bottom reflective coating.

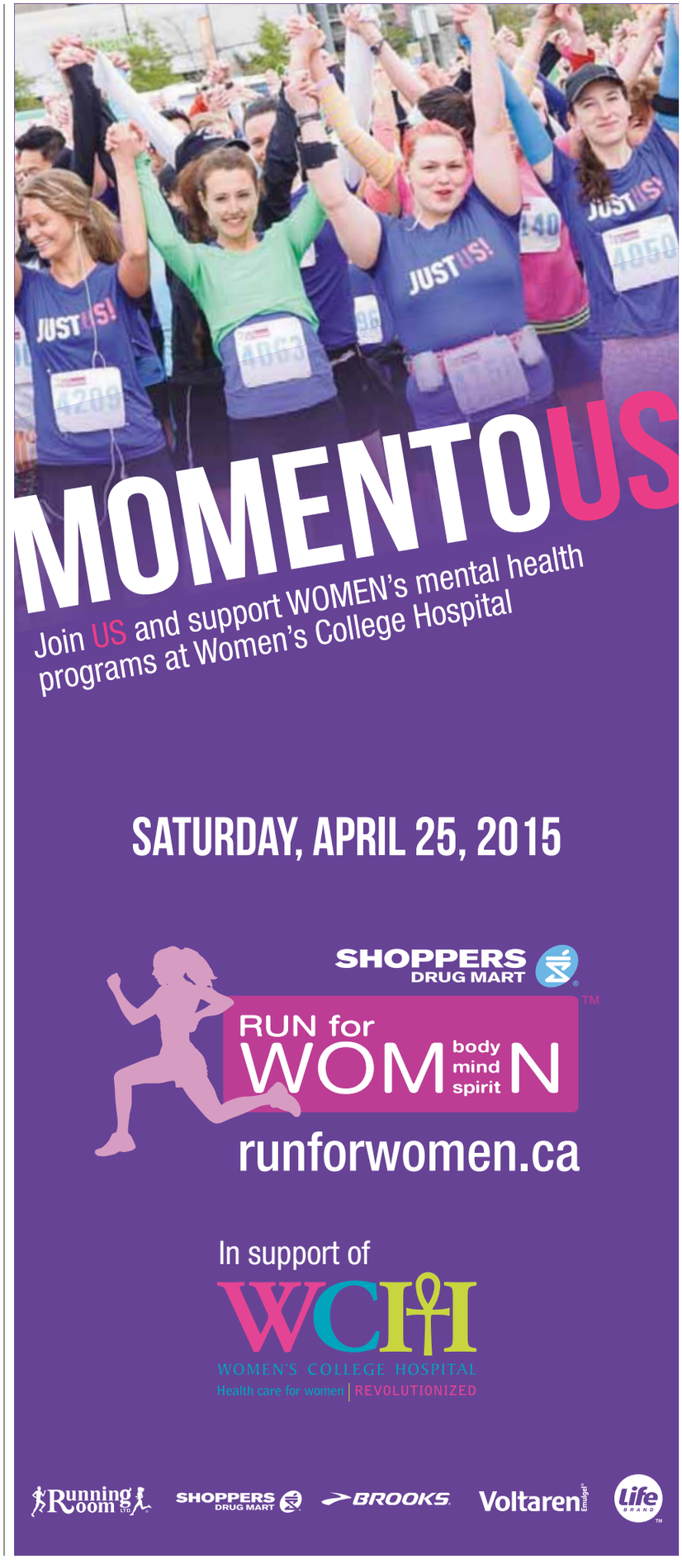
AIDAN KILLEN, CO-OWNER OF BIKES ON WHEELS

Helmet: "Anything sold as a bike helmet is going to protect you," Killen said. "I like to have a helmet that's as low-profile as possible, so I don't look like I have a giant bean on my head."

Lights: After having too many lights stolen off her bike, Killen prefers lights that can be easily taken off and put in her bag. She also favours lights that are as bright as possible.

Bell: "I use a bell that's very loud and very piercing," she said.

Clothes: Killen is a fan of Levi's commuter line, which features street clothes with reflective inseams and other safety features.



7 happy things about 7 p.m.

What are you generally doing at 7 p.m.? A recent study out of the University of California has found that all over the world, 7 p.m. is one of the happiest times of the day. The study's authors interviewed 5,400 people from 20 different countries. No matter where they lived, participants were likely to be engaged in "a largely pleasant social interaction" around 7 p.m. So, does the study's conclusion apply to Toronto? Metro took a look at the happy things happening in Hogtown at 7 p.m.

LUKE SIMCOE FOR METRO

1 RUSH HOUR FINISHES

Driving may not fall under the banner of "social interaction," but Toronto's roadways certainly become more pleasant at about 7 p.m. According to the city's transportation department, rush hour is usually over by 6 p.m. and the last vestiges of congestion are gone by seven o'clock.

2 SHARING A BITE

According to Dine T.O., most dinner reservations in Toronto are made for between 7 and 8 p.m.

3 TIME WITH THE KIDS

Many daycares in the Greater Toronto Area — including the 250 operated by the YMCA — are closed by 6 p.m., meaning parents are likely reunited with their kids by 7 p.m.

4 STARING AT THE SUN

A nice sunset is practically the definition of "pleasant." It varies from season to season, but for much of the year, the sun sets in Toronto at about 7 p.m.

5 WATCHING THE GAME

Seven o'clock is definitely a pleasant time for sports fans in Toronto, with both Raptors and Leafs home games starting around that time. Well, that's assuming you still think being a Leafs' fan is pleasant. Let's move on.

6 CATCHING A FLICK

According to Mike Langdon, director of communications for Cineplex, 7 p.m. "is definitely one of the most popular times for moviegoers" in Toronto.

7 HITTING THE GYM

The GoodLife Fitness centre on Yonge Street reports its busiest time is from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It was a similar story at Downward Dog Yoga on Queen, where the busiest classes often end at about 7:30 p.m.

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Sears

Finding the poetry in T.O.

ARTS

Poet laureate sees the art in our city — even in Rob Ford

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's poet laureate read a poem at Wednesday's city council meeting about Toronto's greatness.

It included a meditation on a Tamil word pronounced "panam" like the Pan Am Games, that has many positive meanings including wealth, funds, treasure, finances and drink, said George Elliott Clarke.

"There's an abstract meaning of the word I like very much: things essential to life," he said. "Our city is a city of great wealth and we have to be very politic about how we use our resources."

Clarke helped create the Toronto Public Library's poetry map, which allows people to explore the city by finding poetry that's been written about different locations in Toronto on an online map. It is being formally unveiled later this month, but can be seen now at torontopoetry.ca.

Clarke said it's easy to see what's poetic about Toronto.

"What isn't poetic about Toronto? First of all we have the greatest multicultural world-class city on the planet. I don't think there's another city on the planet that comes close to Toronto for diversity, linguistic influences from all over the planet and all across the country and the fact that more, or less, functions, more or less well, with a minimum of friction."

As for finding the poetry in city politics, Clarke said art can be what connects us to politicians.

"If any of (us) thinks about the politicians we most admire, they are frequently those who are in tune with the arts, at least a little, who seems to care about poetry," he said.

> **We have to be very politic about how we use our resources.**
> Toronto poet laureate George Elliot Clarke

"Usually people who are really good at inspiring others to undertake some kind of civic initiative have a little bit of poetry in the rhetoric," he said.

When asked if there is anything poetically inspiring about Rob Ford, Clarke said, "Well, hum, that's a great question and I think I'm going to have to answer it this way: During the previous mayor's tenure, we had plenty to think about. Citizens had plenty of inspiration for thinking about what kind of city we'd like to have."

Creative and talented: George Elliott Clarke read a poem during Wednesday's city council meeting. COURTESY CAMELIA LINTA

TORONTO: GREATNESS AND PANAM

The conclusion of George Elliott Clarke's poem, Toronto: Greatness and Panam. Visit livewithculture.ca for more.

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Athletes extend welcome

PAN AM GAMES

With 100 days to go, 100 citizens get sworn in

Zsofi Balasz hadn't even received her Canadian passport when she competed for her new country in the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro.

The open-water swimmer became a Canadian citizen just in time for the 2007 Games, having emigrated from Hungary with her parents and two siblings three years earlier. She went on to swim for Canada in the 2012 Olympics in London.

The 24-year-old, who hopes to represent Canada again this summer, helped welcome 100 new citizens in a ceremony that coincided with the 100-day countdown to the Pan Am Games. Wednesday's citizenship ceremony was held at the newly completed athletes' village near Toronto's waterfront and brought together new Canadians hailing from 58 countries, including 12 from the Americas.

Sundia Exil from Haiti and her son Lorry Exil-Chery pose for pictures after Exil received her Canadian citizenship at the Pan Am Games celebration in Toronto. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Olympic gold medallist Catriona Le May Doan said that for new citizens, as for athletes, "anything is possible."

"Perhaps we will see ... those new Canadians on the podium and wearing the Maple Leaf in the years to come," she said in a news conference after the ceremony.

> **Perhaps we will see those new Canadians on the podium.**
> Catriona Le May Doan, Olympic gold medallist

Some of those who participated in the ceremony said the venue made an already exciting milestone even more momentous. "I feel so special; I'm going to be part of (the Games)," said Tharisa Yogeswaran, 26, who arrived from Sri Lanka with her family in 1997.

For her, moving to Canada meant finding a place where "everybody's differences are appreciated," she said. "I come from a war-torn country. It's a much safer place down here, and my parents felt that we as kids should grow up here," she said.

Joel Thompson came from Trinidad and Tobago with his father 21 years ago in search of "better opportunities," he said.

After a few setbacks, Thompson said he met "good people," landed a job at the Toronto Transit Commission, went to school and eventually started a family of his own.

Balasz said she wants to show the new citizens the opportunities they have, noting she owes her athletic career and her job with Toronto police to the risk her parents took in moving to a country where they didn't speak the language.

"To show up to a country where you don't have any connections and any relatives and everything's totally new, it was a risk that they took to make sure that we had the best," she said. "Their strength for that — I admire it every day and I'm so thankful for it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ford to learn if tumour operable

Coun. Rob Ford said he expects to learn Thursday if he can have potentially life-saving surgery to remove a cancerous tumour from his abdomen.

On Tuesday night, Toronto's former mayor told Joe Warmington on Newstalk 1010 radio that he will meet with his surgical team Thursday to determine if the tumour has shrunk enough for them to operate.

Ford was diagnosed last September with a rare and aggressive cancer.

Ford, who underwent multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, has quoted his doctors as saying the abdominal tumour needed to shrink to about three centimetres before surgeons will operate.

The 45-year-old married father of two young children underwent an MRI and CT scan Friday.

He said then that, if the scans show the tumour is too big to be removed, "it just means they can't do anything more for me."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business Information Sessions

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- The session you will attend

For more information, visit **ontario.ca/games2015**

Ontario

Super groups' side projects popping up

BACKSTAGE PASS

Musicians need to keep many balls in the air

Ian Gormely
Metro | Toronto

It's Monday morning, but Brian Borcherdt is still bothered by Saturday night.

His band, Lids, played its fourth show and things didn't go as planned. The P.A. system cut out and fans hoping to get into the sold-out gig were lined up down an alley.

"It was a good way to do a small punk rock show, but maybe we underestimated that we could have been in a room twice the size," he says.

The trio's debut seven-inch is nothing to sneeze at, and the attention is likely due to the band members' pedigree. Singer-guitarist Borcherdt also plays in Dusted and Holy F–k; bass player Alex Edkins is one-third of noise rockers Metz; and drummer Doug MacGregor also keeps time in Constantines and City & Colour.

Super groups and side projects aren't new on the music scene, but they're popping up more frequently. The financial realities of a working musician can require some artists to keep many creative balls in the air.

Borcherdt doesn't necessarily subscribe to that train of thought though. Rather, his multiple projects reflect different sides of his personality.

"I feel like Lids is a mix of all the things I am," he says. "It summarizes all the things I've ever been interested in musically."

In fact, financially speaking, keeping multiple projects on the go can divide fans' attention away from an artist's primary gig.

"The word that comes up: branding," Borcherdt says. "It's hard to brand when you have multiple sides of your personality to show off."

Lids play the AGO's First Thursday event at 7 p.m. tonight. See ago.net for ticket details.

Bunnies not just for Easter

This can be a bittersweet time for rabbits. Haviva Poster of Toronto Rabbit Rescue says 90 per cent of rabbits bought at Easter are dumped or taken to shelters. But here's how to interact with a bunny in a better way.

1 THE ZOO

High Park Toronto Zoo: Along with the bison, deer, llamas and peacocks you'll find at this public zoo, you'll find a handful of bunnies, brought in specially this holiday weekend.

2 FARM

Riverdale Farm: At this charming public farm in Cabbagetown, you'll find the ever-so-fluffy Midnight and Marshmallow, two rabbits who were rescued and are ready for your admiring eyes.

3 HOTEL

Eaton Chelsea Hotel: Dash and Marble have been full-time residents of this downtown hotel for many years. One a rescue and one adopted from a hotel friend, they reside in the recreational area.

ELIZABETH BEDDALL/METRO

Visitors to Riverdale Farm can take a peek at rescue rabbits Marshmallow and Midnight, who are on display year round at the public farm in Cabbagetown. ELIZABETH BEDDALL/METRO

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IN BRIEF

Quebec to continue to support Badawi despite ambassador's criticism

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Canada is telling Quebec politicians his government won't accept meddling in its internal affairs in response to the case of a jailed blogger.

The ambassador sent a letter addressed to the speaker of the national assembly regarding Raif Badawi, saying his government expresses "its strong surprise and dismay" at what is being said and written about the case.

The March 10 letter was also sent to the federal government and is critical of attacks by media and international agencies on Saudi Arabia's human-rights record.

"(The kingdom) does not accept any form of interference in its internal affairs and rejects the encroachment on its sovereign right or the compromising of its judiciary independence and integrity," writes Naif Bin Bandir AlSudairy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fahmy shocked at Ottawa's refusal to issue passport

A Canadian journalist on trial in Egypt on widely denounced terror charges expressed shock and anger Wednesday over Ottawa's refusal to issue him a passport while he awaits the outcome of his case. Mohamed Fahmy, who spent more than a year in a Cairo prison, has been trying to acquire a new passport ever since being released on bail in February.

"I am crippled, and it's becoming a security threat that I'm walking around with no Canadian passport," he said in an interview from Cairo. "I don't know what to do anymore."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sen. Nancy Ruth speaks at a news conference in Ottawa on Dec. 16, 2010. Ruth is miffed that she's being asked to justify claiming a meal expense while travelling when she could have eaten a free airline breakfast. SEAN KILPATRICK /THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senator displeased with audit process

POLITICS

Most questions too simple, not relevant, says Nancy Ruth

Conservative Sen. Nancy Ruth appears to have little faith in the ability of the auditor general to figure out whether she and her colleagues were inappropriately billing taxpayers for expenses.

"Most of their questions were not very sophisticated, nor do they really have anything to do with Senate business," she told reporters Wednesday morning about her experience having employees for the federal watchdog comb through her travel expense claims as part of a large-scale forensic investigation into Senate reimbursements.

"There are a couple of times when my assistant put in for a breakfast when I was on a plane, and they say I should not claim because I should have eaten that breakfast. Well, those (free) breakfasts are pretty awful. If you want ice-cold Camembert with broken crackers …" Nancy Ruth said.

"I just don't think they understand anything of what it's like to fly around the world to get here. They just don't know," she said.

> **Those (free) breakfasts are pretty awful …**
> Sen. Nancy Ruth

The Conservative senator for Ontario was responding to a report by CTV News on Tuesday night that dozens of senators have received letters from the Office of the Auditor General asking them to account for questionable claims.

A source confirmed to Torstar News Service on Wednesday that at least 44 senators have received such letters and that one of them is former Liberal senator Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, who was asked to explain some $100,000 in claims.

CTV News also said at least one senator has already paid back a claim flagged by auditors.

NDP MP Charlie Angus, the ethics critic for his party, dismissed the notion that the auditor general is being too strict by questioning senators over why they claimed per-diems for meals they could have eaten free on airplanes as well as at receptions and other Senate-related gatherings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lawyer Peter Wong, left, discusses the case of Mario Reyes, right, a temporary foreign worker living in Red Deer, Alta., Wednesday in Calgary. Reyes' work permit has expired and he is faced with returning home. MIKE RIDEWOOD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'I deserve to stay'

JOBS

Clock runs out for thousands of temporary foreign workers

Mario Reyes choked back tears on Wednesday while discussing his last-ditch attempt to remain in Canada as the clock ran out for thousands of temporary foreign workers like him whose work permits have expired.

Reyes, who came to Canada from the Philippines seven years ago, has been working at a Minit Lube franchise in Red Deer, Alta., as a temporary foreign worker. He's now facing the reality that he will soon have to return home.

"When I was in the Philippines, life was really hard for me, but when I got a chance to work here everything changed," said Reyes at his lawyer's office in Calgary.

Reyes turns 48 later this month. His application for permanent residency, filed last November, has been rejected and his hopes of eventually becoming a Canadian citizen are in jeopardy.

"It's Canadian first; I understand," said Reyes. "It's Canadian first, but I deserve to stay. I pay my taxes, I work hard, I do not break the law. I deserve to be a Canadian or at least a permanent resident."

In 2011, the Conservative government set April 1, 2015, as the deadline for temporary foreign workers in low-skilled jobs to either become permanent residents or return home.

In Alberta alone, 10,000 temporary foreign workers have applied to stay in Canada.

Immigration Canada hasn't divulged the total number of workers who now must leave, but immigration and labour market experts have estimated tens of thousands are affected.

In Ottawa, Employment Minister Pierre Poilievre defended the government's position.

"Our policy is that Canadians should come first for Canadian jobs," Poilievre told reporters.

"The April 1st deadline has been known for a very long time and the purpose of the program is for it to be temporary. That's why they're called temporary foreign workers."

Businesses should raise wages and hire Canadians if they're struggling to fill positions, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Mounties dismantle Canada-wide prostitution ring

As many as 500 Asian women were allegedly smuggled into the country to take part in a Canada-wide prostitution ring the RCMP says it has dismantled. Federal authorities announced Wednesday they'd struck against two major cells of the network in the last five days and arrested six people in the greater Montreal and Toronto areas. The accused are allegedly part of an Asian-based organized crime ring that operated bawdy houses in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Canadian diplomat's son killed in shooting

One teenage son of a Miami-based Canadian diplomat was killed and a younger son is under arrest after they were involved in an alleged drug deal that turned into a gun battle, according to police records and the diplomat's ex-husband.

Germano Wabafiyebazu said Wednesday his 17-year-old son, Jean, was killed when he went into a house to buy marijuana, and that police arrested his 15-year-old son.

Wabafiyebazu was formerly married to the boys' mother, Canadian consul general Roxanne Dubé.

The Miami Police Department would not comment on the shootings. The Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office confirmed that another man, 19-year-old Anthony Rodriguez, was charged with second-degree murder and marijuana possession with intent to sell for his alleged role.

The Rodriguez arrest report says a second man was shot to death inside the house, but he was not identified.

The police report also quotes unidentified witnesses as saying Rodriguez brought two pounds of marijuana to the house and began to negotiate.

In addition, the 15-year-old faces charges of threatening a police officer while in custody, according to a separate police report. That report also briefly refers to a gunfight in which Jean Wabafiyebazu was killed.

Germano Wabafiyebazu said his sons borrowed their mother's personal vehicle which has diplomatic licence plates, to drive to the house but told their mother they were just going for a drive. He said he was told that Marc rushed into the house after hearing a gunshot.

Dubé started her job as consul general in Miami in February. She was previously Canada's ambassador to Zimbabwe from 2005 to 2008 and also served as a staff member for a Canadian Liberal cabinet minister for over a decade. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Trial to focus on online bullying

SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Opening statements expected to start next week

A 15-year-old girl committed suicide a week after three classmates photographed themselves sexually assaulting her at a 2012 party, petrified the boys would circulate the photos online and believing gossip about her was spreading widely.

Audrie Pott's story has captivated those concerned with teen bullying, which appears to be on the rise with the help of smartphones and social media but rarely ends in suicide.

A wrongful-death trial this month in San Jose, Calif., will determine whether bullying played a role in the girl's death. Lawyers were to argue Wednesday over what evidence the jury will hear, while opening statements are expected to start next week.

The three boys, now high-school seniors, and other teens are expected to deliver uncomfortable and emotional testimony about the party where Audrie was sexually assaulted after passing out drunk and other events leading up to her death.

Sheila Pott with a portrait of her daughter Audrie in Los Altos, Calif. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parry Aftab, a digital-privacy lawyer, said Audrie's death likely will be discussed at an international anti-bullying conference in Ireland in May that she's helping organize.

"Depending on what the jury decides, the kids will look at this and see there may be consequences," Aftab said.

Audrie's parents say the assault and fear of online ridicule caused her death and they have pursued a wrongful-death lawsuit against the boys, their families and others for three years that will culminate with the three-week trial.

Her parents say they want to hold the boys responsible and call attention to bullying, social-media shaming and teen suicide. One of the three teens told attorneys that in the weeks before Audrie's death, the trio swapped racy selfies of girls they badgered into taking the photos.

> **"Depending on what the jury decides, the kids will look at this and see there may be consequences."**
> Parry Aftab, digital-privacy lawyer

That boy and his family recently apologized to the Pott family and settled their portion of the case for an amount of money a judge has ordered be kept confidential. But the other two teens insist they weren't responsible for Audrie's death.

The Pott family's lawyer said that the "majority" of proceeds from the lawsuit will be donated to the Audrie Pott Foundation and used to lobby for anti-bullying laws.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Egypt, Nigeria led world in 2014 death sentences

Egypt and Nigeria accounted for well over 1,000 of the death sentences announced last year, more than a third of the world's total, Amnesty International says in its latest annual report on the death penalty. The human-rights group expressed alarm at the 28 per cent jump in death sentences: 2,466 people in 55 countries were condemned to death in 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New president vows to hunt Boko Haram

Nigerians celebrated Muhammadu Buhari's victory in presidential elections Wednesday, but sobering challenges confront their new leader: from an Islamic uprising to widespread poverty. Buhari, 72, made history in Africa's most populous country as the first opposition candidate to win elections, defeating President Goodluck Jonathan. Buhari warned Boko Haram insurgents he'd be coming after them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Arkansas governor urges fixing religious-objection measure

GAY RIGHTS

Proposed state law has faced strong backlash

The governor of Arkansas on Wednesday called for changes to a religious objection measure that has faced a backlash from businesses and gay rights groups.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a Republican, said the proposed law wasn't intended to sanction discrimination based on sexual orientation, as critics have claimed.

Nonetheless, the governor said he wants changes to the bill lawmakers sent him, prohibiting state and local government from infringing upon someone's religious beliefs without a compelling interest. Hutchinson said he wants the legislature to either recall the bill or pass a followup measure to make the proposal more closely mirror a 1993 federal religious freedom law.

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hutchinson had initially supported the bill and on Tuesday his office had said he planned to sign it into law.

But by Wednesday, his position had changed. After Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed a similar measure last week, Pence and fellow Republicans endured days of sharp criticism. The Indiana governor is now seeking followup legislation to address concerns that the law could allow businesses to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Neither the Indiana nor Arkansas law specifically mentions gays and lesbians, but opponents are concerned that their language could offer a legal defence to businesses and other institutions that refuse to serve gays, such as caterers, florists or photographers with religious objections to same-sex marriage.

Supporters insist the law will only give religious objectors a chance to bring their case before a judge.

Similar proposals have been introduced in more than a dozen states. Nineteen other states have similar laws on the books.

Conservative lawmakers have proposed the religious-protection laws as gay marriage advanced rapidly across America, an attempt to shield people from private discrimination lawsuits if they felt that doing business with same-sex couples violated their religious beliefs. Echoing the reaction to Indiana's law, Hutchinson has faced pressure from the state's top employers, including retail giant Wal-Mart, which complained that the measure was discriminatory and would stifle economic development. Little Rock's mayor, the city's Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas-based data services company Acxiom all urged the governor to reject the measure in recent days.

Other big names in business, including Apple, Gap and Levi Strauss, have also spoken out against the religious-objection measures.

Experts say companies are increasingly concerned about any laws that could alienate customers, hurt state economies or limit employers' ability to attract and retain talent.

Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is particularly influential because it is the world's largest retailer and the largest private employer in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN INDIANA

State faces opposition

The state of Indiana faces a possible economic hit as businesses and organizations are cancelling events and barring travel. The band Wilco won't play a May 7 concert in Indianapolis. Comedian Nick Offerman and wife, comic Megan Mullally, said they'll donate proceeds from an appearance Wednesday. The list of cities and states banning government travel continues to grow. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

France recovers remains from Alps crash; families must wait to get them

Just over a week after a Germanwings plane crashed into the French Alps, investigators have finished retrieving human remains from the crash site and are now trying to match them with DNA profiles from the 150 people killed — an arduous task that could leave families waiting for months.

The extraordinary recovery process mobilized hundreds of people and cut a stony road into a forested Alpine mountainside to help the team bring back anything they found, from a body part to a tiny shred of skin. Not a single intact body was found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emirates, Etihad Airways jetliners get too close

Jetliners from the United Arab Emirates' two main airlines apparently got too close to each other over the Indian Ocean this week.

One of the carriers involved, Dubai-based Emirates, called it an "air traffic control incident" in a statement Wednesday. Neither it nor Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways would say how close the two planes came to each other.

Emirates says its flight EK709 was returning from the Indian Ocean island nation of Seychelles when the incident occurred Sunday in airspace controlled from Mumbai, India.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEMEN SAUDI-LED AIRSTRIKES TARGET SHIITE REBELS ACROSS YEMEN; 35 WORKERS KILLED A Houthi Shiite rebel carries his weapon as he joins others to protest against Saudi-led airstrikes, during a rally in Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday. Saudi-led coalition warplanes bombed Shiite rebel positions in both north and south Yemen early Wednesday, setting off explosions and drawing return fire from anti-aircraft guns. HANI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fire engulfs Mexican oil rig; 4 people dead

OIL

No evidence yet of major spill: Pemex

A massive ball of flames engulfed an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday, killing four people and sending terrified workers jumping into the sea.

State-run oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said there was no evidence yet of a major oil spill following the blast, which injured 16 workers, two seriously, and forced the evacuation of 300.

Fleets of helicopters ferried workers with bandaged hands and faces, and burn marks on their overalls to the nearby city of Ciudad del Carmen, where crowds of concerned relatives of oil workers thronged outside hospitals.

A survivor of the blaze on the shallow-water Abkatun Permanente platform in the Campeche Sound said workers "jumped into the sea out of desperation and panic."

"There was nothing you could do but run," said Roger Arias Sanchez, an employee of Pemex contractor Cotemar who escaped the burning platform in an evacuation boat.

Eight firefighting boats were trying to extinguish the fire, said Pemex. Mexico's Energy Security Agency said the fire "is being extinguished."

President Enrique Pena Nieto said the causes of the accident are under investigation.

Pena said he had issued orders "to carry out the appropriate investigations to find whoever is responsible, but above all, to avoid this type of accident in the future."

On its Twitter account Wednesday afternoon, Pemex raised the death toll from one to four. Many of the injured appeared to be Cotemar employees.

Pemex's media office said it was unclear whether any significant amount of oil had spilled from the Abkatun Permanente platform, which largely serves to separate gas, oil and other petroleum products, and pump them to refineries onshore.

Previous spills from Mexican facilities had usually occurred at active offshore wells, not processing stations such as Abkatun. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL

Iraq declares victory in Tikrit

The government declared victory in Tikrit on Wednesday over ISIL extremists, and it warned the militants holding other Iraqi provinces that they would be the next to fall.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi walked triumphantly along a street in Tikrit, carrying an Iraqi flag and surrounded by jubilant forces.

Across the border in Syria, however, ISIL fighters made their deepest foray yet into the capital of Damascus by infiltrating a Palestinian refugee camp, according to opposition activists and Palestinian officials.

Iraq's victory over the extremists in Tikrit was seen as a key step toward eventually driving the militants out of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the capital of Nineveh province.

Defence Minister Khalid al-Obeidi announced the victory, saying security forces have "accomplished their mission" in the monthlong offensive to rid Saddam Hussein's hometown and the broader Salahuddin province of the militant group.

"We have the pleasure, with all our pride, to announce the good news of a magnificent victory," Obeidi said in a video statement, and he named the other Iraqi provinces still being held by ISIL militants.

"Here we come to you, Anbar! Here we come to you, Nineveh, and we say it with full resolution, confidence, and persistence," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Seven-year-old California girl gets a 3D-printed arm for $50

TECHNOLOGY

Inexpensive choice ideal for growing youngsters

Seven-year-old Faith Lennox never thought much about putting a prosthetic limb where her left hand had once been — not until she learned she could design her own, strap it on easily and then jump on her bike and pedal away at speeds previously only imagined.

Faith firmly placed her new hand's blue and pink fingers on her bike's left handlebar and took off for a lengthy ride around the Build It Workspace in Los Alamitos, Calif., on Tuesday morning. Inside, just a short time before, that hand had rolled off a 3D printer that built it overnight.

"I don't think we'll ever get her off it," said her mother, Nicole, smiling with resignation as she watched her daughter continue to circle the parking lot in the Orange County suburb.

The prosthetic represents a breakthrough in small, lightweight hands that are economical and easy for children to use. It weighs only a pound and costs just $50 US to construct out of the same materials used to make drones and automobile parts.

When Faith outgrows it in six months or a year, a replacement can be made just as cheaply and easily, said Mark Muller, a prosthetics professor at California State University, Dominguez Hills, who helped with the design. He said a heavier adult model with sensors attached to a person's muscles would run $15,000 to $20,000.

Faith manipulates her hand without sensors. Instead, as she happily demonstrated after the bike ride, she moves her upper arm back and forth. That in turn opens and closes its blue and pink fingers — "my favourite colours," she noted with a smile.

The oldest of three children, Faith had compartment syndrome when her position during childbirth cut off the flow of blood to her left forearm, irreparably damaging tissue, muscle and bone. After nine months of trying to save the limb, doctors determined they had to amputate just below the elbow.

She had tried a couple of more traditional — and more expensive — prosthetics over the years but found them bulky, heavy and hard to use.

Her parents were working with the non-profit group E-Nable to get her a 3D-printed hand, but the technology is so new there's a waiting list, her mother said. Then she learned of what Build It Workspace could do from a friend whose son visited with his Scout troop.

Although the company, founded by mechanical engineer Mark Lengsfeld, has printed everything from pumps for oil-and-gas companies to parts for drones, this was the first hand Lengsfeld and his employees had built. So he used E-Nable's open-source technology and called in Cal State, Dominguez Hills' experts for guidance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Faith Lennox forms a heart with her new 3D-printed hand at the Build it Workspace in Los Alamitos, Calif., on Tuesday. Her position during childbirth cut off the flow of blood to her left forearm, irreparably damaging tissue, muscle and bone. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE COMPANY

Small space, big ideas

Build It Workspace teaches people to use high-tech printers, provides access to them for projects and does its own commercial printing. The small studio was founded less than a year ago.

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MUSIC

Tidal woos artists to join firm

Tidal, the music and video streaming service co-owned by Jay Z, Rihanna, Madonna and other artists, is inviting more performers to join the company and earn equity.

Senior executive Vania Schlogel said late Tuesday that Tidal welcomes more acts. It introduced its new co-owners at a launch event on Monday. Co-owners including Beyonce, Daft Punk, Kanye West, Jack White, Alicia Keys, members of Arcade Fire and Jason Aldean attended the launch.

Artists who join the company would earn more money through the streaming service than through others that exist, Schlogel said.

A business controlled by Jay Z bought Tidal for $56 million US in mid-March. The streaming service, which has 540,000 subscribers, provides music and video content that users can stream on computers, tablets and smartphones or listen to offline. Subscriptions begin at $10 US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, April 2, 2015

A lousy law

THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler

Earlier this week, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which, he says, "ensures that Indiana law will respect religious freedom and apply the highest level of scrutiny to any state or local governmental action that infringes on people's religious liberty."

It sounds nice, like he's just signed a law that says everyone can go to church and not be worried that the government might try to stop them.

This law is anything but nice. In layman's terms, this law says that business owners can choose not to serve customers that offend their religious beliefs. The example that's being most commonly referenced is that a Christian business owner can refuse to serve members of the LGBTQ community because they somehow "infringe on their religious liberty."

I keep looking at the calendar to see if it really is 2015. I keep checking Google Maps to make sure Indiana is in the United States of America — Canada's close ally and neighbour. What is going on here? And why doesn't Pence have a tiny square moustache?

What made this law particularly scary was that Indiana doesn't have any statewide anti-discrimination legislation when it comes to sexual orientation.

So theoretically, it meant that in certain Indiana cities, businesses would legally be allowed to put a sign in their window saying, "No Gays."

This, of course, rings a terrible bell and one can't help but think back to those "No Colored Allowed" signs found until just over 50 years ago in the southern U.S. Has Pence learned nothing from history?

Incidentally, if I came across any store that had any sign that said anyone was not welcome, I'd probably suffer an anger-induced bout of dyslexia and read it as, "Please throw rocks at our window."

The backlash to the law was refreshingly harsh: Connecticut announced a boycott of Indiana, the band Wilco cancelled a concert there, large business deals that involved the state were put on hold.

I couldn't help but laugh when during an interview with George Stephanopoulos, Pence called this backlash "intolerant." Yes, Mike, people are intolerant of intolerance and thank God for that — on Tuesday, Pence announced that he'd be amending the bill to make it clear that this law was not meant to condone discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

I believe in religious freedoms and liberties. Like how the Federal Court of Canada ruled it was unlawful to force a Muslim woman, Zunera Ishaq, to remove her niqab at her citizenship ceremony. She has every right to practise her religion. But if Ishaq owned a business and refused to serve me because I was not wearing a niqab? Well, that wouldn't be cool.

While I'm glad Pence has chosen to clarify this bill, I'm sad that there's even a bill like this that needs clarifying.

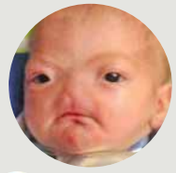
Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From **miracle babies** to **corporate tomfoolery,**
Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

911 is not a joke

This is not an emergency. We repeat, this is not an emergency: Police in Idaho say a man who called 911 a dozen times complaining about his bar bill is facing a $1,000 fine and up to a year of jail time. The man allegedly made the calls after police gave him a ride home when he got kicked out of Club Tequila. The bar produced a receipt showing he was charged $30 for the 10 beers he apparently ordered.



One in 97 million

Among all the amazing babies that came into the world recently, this adorable little guy deserves a special mention. Timothy Eli Thompson was born without a nose, and guess what? He's doing just fine, having left the hospital this week. In his brief time on planet Earth, he's already made 20,000 friends via his Facebook page. Best wishes to him and his family.

Bad news for bears

In some super bummer news, a study published this week says polar bears forced onto land due to melting ice probably won't find enough food to replace their diet of delicious seals. Apparently the berries, eggs and birds they find on the mainland are no caloric substitute for mammals weighing 150 to 300 pounds each, mostly blubber. The bears love the cute little guys as much as Paul McCartney does.

Rascals!

Nothing like a little skylarking. On April 1, the always hilarious Microsoft launched MS-DOS as a mobile OS, those yucksters at CERN confirmed the existence of the Force, billionaire Lululemon founder and noted comic Chip Wilson posted a building permit for his future helicopter landing pad and uproarious pranksters Netflix launched a PSA on binge-watching. To these, and all the other fools in the world, thank you for the fandango.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Faith is splintering, but it is not dying

It's Easter. So I'm going to take my day off on Friday, and I'm going to church.

I probably won't see you there.

We all know statutory holidays like Easter and Christmas are only religious historically for many Canadians. Your weekend might be more about bunnies and chocolate and ham than celebrating our risen Lord. Correction: my risen Lord.

Religion has been on a downward trend in this country, but a new study shows that the picture is far more complicated than increasingly empty pews.

Faith is splintering, but it is not dying.

While subscriptions to major religions have fallen to 30 per cent from 45 per cent in 1985, the year I was born, we also now have a majority of Canadians straddling the middle ground between belief in a traditional faith, and belief in nothing at all, according to an Angus Reid study released last week.

The 44 per cent of us who consider ourselves ambivalent about religion "consistently seem to be open not only to religious beliefs, but to a range of other non-naturalist beliefs as well, such as psychic phenomena and astrology," the study found.

The finding suggests many of us believe we "cannot live by rationality alone." Which perhaps explains the two-thirds of us who the study found believe in an afterlife and a supreme being.

The study also showed that immigration is boosting the ranks of many Christian and non-Christian religions.

There are one million Muslims, 500,000 Hindus, and 330,000 Jews in this country, plus about 25,500 Pagans, 1,000 Rastafarians and dozens of other small faith groups, according to Statistics Canada data from 2011.

Plus the 22 million who, like me, identify as Christian.

I bet even many of these believers, like me, have what I'd call the personalized approach. For example, I believe in God, and that gay is good and the state has no place barring abortions.

Atheism might have had a pop culture moment, but with only 48,675 of us identifying as atheist, it hasn't sunk our collective sense of faith.

And I don't think it can. There seems to be something innate in humans that drives us to see life as more than this one moment, in this one day. The world seems vaster and more glorious and even more meaningful than its parts.

Belief is not something that we have learned our way out of. We appear to crave faith — in something.

So I'll take my Easter long weekend. And my Jesus in a totally non-ironic way.

And the cute bunnies and chocolate.

Live and let believe.

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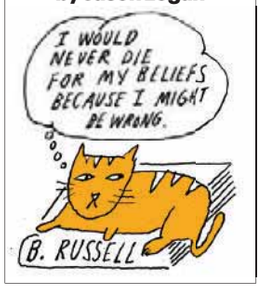

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Franchise holds Fast to formula

FURIOUS 7

Star Vin Diesel says this is the biggest F&F film ever

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

Tyrese Gibson, left, Michelle Rodriguez, Paul Walker, and Chris Ludacris in a scene from Furious 7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Furious 7 has already generated its share of column inches from entertainment journalists. The cast has spent the last few weeks doing the junket rounds, talking to everyone with a microphone or a notepad, generating sound bites and stories that have fed newspapers, websites and television shows.

Star Michelle Rodriguez, who plays Letty Ortiz, spoke of getting "pretty crazy" after co-star Paul Walker's death. "I was pushing myself to feel," she said by way of explanation of some of her tabloid-level behaviour in the last year.

Ludacris, who has played technical expert Tej Parker in four F&F films, told the Today Show, "We're about to make history as the most successful franchise of all time."

Vin Diesel has talked about naming his daughter after his friend and co-star Walker — "There's no other person that I was thinking about as I was cutting this umbilical cord" — and made grand pronouncements about the quality of his film.

"Universal is going to have the biggest movie in history with this movie," Diesel said, likely sounding as though he's dragging every word through sandpaper. "It will probably win best picture at the Oscars, unless the Oscars don't want to be relevant ever."

He's likely only half wrong. In 2011 he made a similar award season prediction about Fast 5 and while that didn't pan out, the movie made a fortune, grossing north of $600 million worldwide.

He's right to say that the new film will surely put the pedal to the metal and sell a lot of popcorn. Despite so-so reviews, the Fast and Furious franchise has an EZ Pass to the box office fast lane, grossing two billion plus dollars since racing into theatres in 2001.

"Just because they are for the working class doesn't mean they're not great," Diesel said.

F&F fans enjoy the formula, which can be broken down to essentially this: Swagger interrupted by a snappy one-liner, a wild car chase, a fight scene. Repeat.

The movies aren't Kierkegaard, and that's one of the reasons they haven't run out of gas yet. Over seven entries, they've remained loud and proud, lowbrow and unashamed. They're a wild celebration of muscle cars, muscle shirts and muscle heads.

Like an engorged Hot Wheels set, the films are playthings for the directors — there have been four over the run of the series — who toe the company line time after time offering up a car-crushing stew where sophisticated line readings and nuanced storytelling take a backseat to frenetic editing and in-your-face explosive action. They exist in a world where people only drink Budweiser and bastardizations like Bud Lime don't exist. That purity of vision is the beauty of the series.

Despite the loss of Walker, you can bet Furious 7 won't be the last movie in the series. As long as the formula works and the money continues to come in fast and furious, Diesel and company won't put these films in the rear-view mirror.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

While We're Young	★★★½
Woman in Gold	★★★
Last Knights	★★½

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Baumbach takes a crack at screwball

INTERVIEW

Director serves up classic comic fare in While We're Young

Ned Ehrbar

Ben Stiller, Noah Baumbach and Adam Driver on the set of While We're Young. CONTRIBUTED/ELEVATION PICTURES

Noah Baumbach's latest film, While We're Young, follows a documentary filmmaker in his 40s (Ben Stiller) and his wife (Naomi Watts) as they go down the Brooklyn hipster rabbit hole with a couple of Bushwick artist-types (Adam Driver and Amanda Seyfried). But in creating an authentically ridiculous hipster world, Baumbach had to be careful not to ape current trends for fear they'd be passé by the time the movie came out.

The natural solution? Just predict what the kids will be into next.

My first question, I guess, is f—ing hipsters, right?
Yeah, f—ing hipsters (laughs). From the time I started writing this script to when we shot it, the notion of hipsters in Brooklyn had already morphed and grown, and things had changed from even when I first started writing it, so I kind of was aware of the fact that to parody this specifically, I was always going to be behind it no matter what. So in a way I kind of made up my own version of it while also using tropes and things that we're all familiar with. The way we went about it was to make it interesting to us. I wasn't sure if people were on rollerblades again yet, but I was like, "Let's just do it, and I'm sure somebody's on them."

You could accidentally be setting the new trends.
Yeah, exactly. "What you all should be doing is rollerblading."

With Adam Driver's character, you have a remarkable portrait of a charlatan — a con-artist type. How much of that is in the casting?
There's always going to be that balance, because on the one hand, Ben falling in love with this guy is funny from the beginning even if you don't suspect he's something other than he claims. But definitely casting Adam broadened the opportunity with that guy in that he's so compelling and he's such a physical presence and he's so charismatic and interesting. So it allowed for a lot of flexibility.

This feels very much in the vein of classic screwball comedies, in that it's about a couple re-learning how to be together.
Yeah, comedies of re-marriage. I wanted to do something consciously in a more traditional comic structure, and I was thinking of movies that Mike Nichols made like Working Girl, or Sydney Pollack with Tootsie, Jim Brooks with Broadcast News. These kinds of movies that felt like they were character comedies and relationship comedies, but there was a kind of gloss — and I mean that as a positive thing — element to them.

They had a structure, and they were sort of that era's version of these screwball comedies, which I also love, all those movies. So I was aware of that. I wanted to do my version of that.

> **"I wanted to do something consciously in a more traditional comic structure**
> Noah Baumbach

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Dov Tiefenbach and Tommie-Amber Pirie star in Pretend We're Kissing. ERIN SIMKIN/CONTRIBUTED

Not another rom com

CANADIAN FILM

Character study 10 years in the making

Steve Gow
For Metro

There's a reason why the creators behind Pretend We're Kissing are insisting the movie not be labelled a romantic comedy.

"They're considered second-rate films for the most part," said star Dov Tiefenbach during a recent interview to promote the Canadian film. "They're kind of considered date flicks or chick flicks, which is even derogatory — like chicks like bad movies. That's kind of sexist, I think."

In truth, however, the "non-rom com" from Toronto-playwright/actor-turned-director Matt Sadowski is reminiscent of such iconic romance films as Annie Hall or the Before Sunrise trilogy. A casual character study, it follows the fleeting fireworks that spark between a bashful would-be drummer (Tiefenbach) and a breezy beauty (Tommie-Amber Pirie of TV's Bitten) seeking a magical connection.

"It changed a lot," admitted Sadowski of the story he crafted a decade ago while cast as one of the costumed characters on cult-hit superhero show Power Rangers S.P.D. "Not to shake a stick at Power Rangers but coming from being a rising writer in the city of Toronto, and then going to do Power Rangers, I felt like I needed to do something more artistic. So I was like, I'm going to write a script, and this was the script."

Sadowski couldn't have predicted it would take 10 years to complete the film (which premiered across Canada on Wednesday) and, in fact, during that lengthy process, he even made another film just to keep motivated: the acclaimed documentary Don't You Forget About Me, an ode to legendary filmmaker John Hughes (The Breakfast Club).

While Pretend We're Kissing is certainly a long cry from a Hughes-like '80s teen comedy, it was an experience that taught Sadowski one thing.

"What I took from finding out about (Hughes) was he really just made films that he wanted to make," said Sadowski. "And I've got to say, more so than anything I've ever done, I'm most proud of this, and I hope people like it. But I like it — and that's the most important thing."

LOVE LETTER TO TORONTO

Set in Toronto, Pretend We're Kissing boasts many city landmarks but Toronto Island was the one locale Sadowski had to include.

"It's the only place in Toronto that's not part of Toronto where you can look back at Toronto," said the filmmaker. "There's something about looking back at Toronto that makes you look at the city in a different way."

"I don't think it tarnishes my name at all. If anything, it's put me in front of an audience and created a bit of a fan base."

Director Matt Sadowski on his time acting in Power Rangers

REAL LIFE ON SCREEN

Wahlberg to produce movie about marathon bombing

CBS Films says Mark Wahlberg is set to produce Patriots' Day, a feature film about the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing based on Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis's first-hand account.

Matt Charman (Bridge of Spies) is writing the screenplay, which will span the five-day investigation and hunt to apprehend the suspects.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Wahlberg AFP

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ACTION

Furious 7

Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker

Continuing the global exploits in the unstoppable franchise built on speed, Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Dwayne Johnson lead the returning cast of Fast & Furious 7.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 86% Audience: 98%

DRAMA

Woman in Gold

Director: Simon Curtis
Starring: Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds

The remarkable true story of one woman's journey to reclaim her heritage. Sixty years after she fled Vienna during the Second World War, an elderly Jewish woman starts her journey to retrieve family possessions seized by the Nazis.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 40% Audience: 90%

DRAMA-COMEDY

Danny Collins

Director: Dan Fogelman
Starring: Al Pacino, Annette Bening

Al Pacino stars as aging 1970s rocker Danny Collins, who can't give up his hard-living ways. But when his manager uncovers a 40-year-old undelivered letter written to him by John Lennon, he decides to change course and embarks on a heartfelt journey to begin a second act.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 72% Audience: 70%

DRAMA

Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter

Director: David Zellner
Starring: Rinko Kikuchi

In this darkly comedic odyssey, Academy Award nominee Rinko Kikuchi stars as Kumiko, a frustrated office worker whose imagination transcends the confines of her mundane life.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 88% Audience: 73%

DRAMA

Boychoir

Director: François Girard
Starring: Dustin Hoffman

Stet, a troubled and angry 11-year-old orphan from a small town, ends up at a boys choir after the death of his single mom. Completely out of his element, he finds himself in a battle of wills with a demanding choir master who recognizes a unique talent in this young boy.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 69% Audience: 71%

DOCUMENTARY

The Hunting Ground

Director: Kirby Dick

A startling exposé about rape crimes on U.S. campuses, institutional coverups and the brutal social toll on victims and their families. Weaving together verité footage and first-person testimonies, the film follows survivors as they pursue their education while fighting for justice.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 90% Audience: 56%

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ACTION

Last Knights

Director: Kazuaki Kiriya
Starring: Clive Owen, Morgan Freeman

Academy Award Nominee Clive Owen delivers an electrifying performance as a fallen warrior who rises against a corrupt and sadistic ruler to avenge his dishonoured master in this epic, sword-clashing adventure of loyalty, honour, and vengeance.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
NOT YET REVIEWED	+91%

ROMANCE

Pretend We're Kissing

Director: Matt Sadowski
Starring: Zöe Kravitz

All Benny wants to do is be more confident, stop thinking so much and fall in love. When he has a chance encounter with Jordan, a woman obsessed with the notion of fate and a magical kind of love, he may finally have the opportunity.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
NOT YET REVIEWED	NOT YET REVIEWED

DOCUMENTARY

The Salt of the Earth

Director: Wim Wenders, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado

For the last 40 years, the photographer Sebastião Salgado has been travelling through the continents, in the footsteps of an ever-changing humanity. He has witnessed some of the major events of our recent history — international conflicts, starvation and exodus.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
94%	89%

DOCUMENTARY

Glen Campbell: I'll be Me

Director: James Keach
Starring: Glen Campbell

In 2011, music legend Glen Campbell set out on a cross-country tour that was to last five weeks. Instead it went for 151 spectacular sold-out shows over a year and a half across America. What made this tour extraordinary? Glen had recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
100%	96%

DRAMA-FANTASY

Cast No Shadow

Director: Christian Sparkes
Starring: Mary-Colin Chisholm

One wild and tumultuous summer in the life of young Jude Traynor as he attempts to navigate his way through a life of delinquency and petty crime.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
NOT YET REVIEWED	NOT YET REVIEWED

DRAMA-COMEDY

While We're Young

Director: Noah Baumbach
Starring: Ben Stiller, dam Driver

Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts as Josh and Cornelia, a childless New York married couple in their mid-40s. As their other friends all start having children, the couple gravitates toward a young hipster couple.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
83%	69%

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Mirren is as good as gold for director

Helen Mirren plays the real-life Maria Altmann in Woman in Gold. CONTRIBUTED/ALLIANCE

WOMAN IN GOLD

Simon Curtis says the actress was a crucial part of new film

Richard Crouse
Metro | Canada

Woman in Gold is director Simon Curtis's followup to the Academy Award-nominated My Week with Marilyn, which chronicled seven days in the life of Marilyn Monroe during production of the 1957 film The Prince and the Showgirl.

In the new movie, Dame Helen Mirren plays Maria Altmann, a Jewish refugee of the Second World War who flees Austria to settle in the U.S. She enlists the help of young lawyer Randol Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds) to help reclaim five Gustav Klimt paintings, including one of her aunt, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I.

Looted by Nazis at the outset of the war, the iconic artwork (referred to as the "Mona Lisa of Austria" in the film) hung in the state gallery for five decades. The case wound its way for years through the courts, until it reached the U.S. Supreme Court and then binding arbitration by a panel of three Austrian judges.

He spent a week with Marilyn, the director teases, but years with Maria.

The story first grabbed his interest when he saw a BBC Imagine documentary on her struggle to reclaim artworks that were rightfully hers. He was taken with the character of Maria, who reminded him of many people he grew up with. "I'm from a Jewish family in London," he says, "and I met many women like Maria."

The resulting film plays like two thrillers — the present day legal story and the backstory — told in flashbacks.

One is a procedural, one a horrifying look at the rise of Nazism in Austria, mixed and matched to form a whole. But Woman in Gold isn't strictly a movie about a lawsuit or Holocaust horror, it's really a story about the power of memories and heritage.

Curtis says the casting of Mirren was crucial to the success of the film. He needed an actress of a certain age and one who could portray the emotional range of a woman trapped between her real world pain and the memories she holds dear. On Mirren's face is the story, a vision of loss and anguish, but tempered with a tale of determination.

ON HELEN

Some things never change

Curtis first met Mirren almost 30 years ago when he assistant directed a production of Measure for Measure in 1979. He remembers her as a formidable force and jokingly calls himself "her tea boy." "I sat with her in the kitchen and helped her answer fan mail and boiled water for tea," he says. "I did essentially the same job on this film."

HEALTH

Avril Lavigne says she has Lyme disease

Ned Ehrbar

OK, I officially feel bad about all the Nickelback jokes. Avril Lavigne has announced that she's been suffering from Lyme disease since October. "I had no idea a bug bite could do this," Lavigne tells People magazine. "I was bedridden for five months. I felt like I couldn't breathe, I couldn't talk and I couldn't move. I thought I was dying."

But don't worry, Lavigne says she's now "80 per cent" better and has a new outlook on life.

"This was a wake-up call," she says. "I really just want to enjoy life from here on out."

She's been recuperating at her home in Ontario with the help of her mom and her husband, Nickelback front man Chad Kroeger.

The tick-borne disease has symptoms including fever, headache and fatigue.

Singer Joni Mitchell hospitalized in L.A.

Joni Mitchell ALL PHOTOS GETTY

BEL AIR

Folk legend was found unconscious in her home

Joni Mitchell was in intensive care in a Los Angeles-area hospital on Tuesday, according to the Twitter account and website of the folk singer and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer.

"Joni was found unconscious in her home this afternoon," said a statement on the Mitchell website. "She is currently in intensive care undergoing tests and is awake and in good spirits."

It wasn't immediately clear what illness she had.

Los Angeles fire officials said paramedics answered an afternoon 911 call in Bel Air, where Mitchell lives, and took a patient to the hospital. But they could not verify her identity or give details on her condition.

The 71-year-old singer-songwriter told Billboard magazine in December that she has a rare skin condition, Morgellons disease, which prevents her from performing. Still, she released a career-spanning four-disc box set last year and appeared at Clive Davis' annual pre-Grammy party in February.

Mitchell has received eight Grammy Awards, including a lifetime achievement award in 2002. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

Mitchell, who was born in Fort Macleod, Alta., is also a member of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.

She started her career as a street musician before moving to Southern California, where she became part of the flourishing folk scene in the late 1960s.

Mitchell has released 19 original albums, the most recent in 2007. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE DAILY SHOW

Aasif Mandvi stands up for Trevor Noah

Longtime Daily Show correspondent Aasif Mandvi says he doesn't understand the recent fuss about future host Trevor Noah's Twitter account.

"I think it's much ado about nothing," said Mandvi while speaking as part of the LinkedIn Discussion Series at the company's New York headquarters on Tuesday. "The guy made some off-colour, irresponsible tweets, but he was trying to be funny."

As for fans of the show who were hoping that Mandvi himself would be tapped to fill Jon Stewart's shoes: The 49-year-old actor insists that he never wanted the job.

"I think they wanted someone who was a new fresh face," he added. "I don't know Trevor, I've met him a couple of times and he seems like a nice guy. I trust Jon Stewart and Jon seems to want him."

LAKSHMI GANDHI/METRO IN NYC

METHOD ACTING

Jamie Dornan walks the stalk

Fifty Shades of Grey star Jamie Dornan is quickly learning that there are some things better kept to yourself during interviews. Like the fact that while prepping for his role as a creepy serial killer in BBC series The Fall, he got some hands-on experience in stalking. "The first (season), I did a couple of things to try and get inside (my character's head)," he tells the Los Angeles Times.

"I did ... can I get arrested for this? Hold on ... this is a really bad reveal — I like, followed a woman off the train one day to see what it felt like to pursue someone like that. I really kept my distance and I was aware, it was kind of half-hearted, 'cause I was going like, 'If she turns around, is she going to notice?' She got off a few stops earlier than I was planning so I was like, 'All right, I'll have to commit to this here.'"

He then followed her several blocks, which is certainly not creepy at all, right?

"It felt kind of, like, exciting in a really, like, sort of dirty way and I'm sort of not proud of myself. But I do honestly think I learned something from it, you know, just 'cause I obviously have never done anything like that in my life, so it was intriguing and interesting to sort of enter that process of like, what are you following her for and what are you trying to find out?"

So would you mind terribly if you turned around to discover Jamie Dornan was following you home? I mean, for purely professional reasons?

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

Jamie Dornan

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Mirroring the neighbourhood

CONDOMINIUMS

Unique designs pay homage to history of building sites

Megan Haynes
For Metro

When Roland Rom Colthoff, director of Toronto-based architecture firm RAW Design, was asked to work on a midrise condo near Halifax's port, his team noticed the neighbourhood was replete with shipping containers. So they incorporated the containers into the building's design.

Shipping containers

The shipping containers (visible on the side of the building) celebrate, rather than conceal, the industrial heritage of the neighbourhood, he says.

"We didn't want to say 'Oh, don't worry, it's industrial, but you'll have a lovely house,'" he adds. "We wanted to say, 'It's industrial and you'll have a great place to live and show off your pride as a Haligonian.' (Condo buyers) can say 'I'm part of the port. I'm part of the community.'" The 142-unit building, expected March 2016, has sold out.

Southport is one of a number of new or recently built midrise buildings across Canada that pay homage in a unique way to the space on which they have been built, in a bid by architects and developers to create a sense of community among residents, and stand out in a crowded market.

All units of the Tree House in Toronto face the courtyard to encourage interaction with neighbours. CONTRIBUTED

Just look at Vancouver's King Edward Green development, which incorporates the famed Hobbit House (a picturesque fairy-tale house built in 1942) into its two-building midrise. Developer David Mooney says when a site has so much character, builders simply "have to find a way to preserve it. It shows we care about history and our heritage."

Glass shingles

That's not to say a condo has to conform to its historical roots to be a contextual fit for a neighbourhood, says Sasa Radulovic, founding principal and architect at Winnipeg-based 5468796 Architecture. He points to the Stradbrook midrise in Winnipeg that he and his firm worked on. Surrounded by historic wood-shingled houses, Stradbrook is wrapped in glass shingles, paying homage to its neighbours in a modern way. It creates a mirrored panelling, letting the building literally reflect its surroundings. Another 5468796 unit in Toronto features zig-zagged townhouses, meant to mirror the neighbouring suburb that, when viewed from above, looks staggered like a staircase. At the Tree House development (currently in pre-sales), all the units face the courtyard, which is meant to encourage neighbours to interact, he adds.

> **It shows we care about history and our heritage**
> David Mooney

Condo buildings are not isolated, adds Tudor Radulescu, architect and principal at Montreal-based Kanva. Buildings (and their inhabitants) are part of neighbourhoods, and they have to be woven into the urban fabric, rather than work against it.

Perforated steel

He points to a project completed in 2012 in a former Montreal industrial neighbourhood, which used to specialize in steel manufacturing. To pay tribute to that heritage, and to the two-storey building's recent life as a movie and TV studio, the architects wrapped the four-storey extension in perforated steel, to give the building the illusion of a curtain.

Effectively, it fits and it's nice to live somewhere that fits, he says.

"People are realizing they can buy a condo and it doesn't have to be an anonymous 40-storey tower where you (only meet neighbours) when taking the elevator," says Rom Colthoff. "They don't want to buy square footage. They want to buy into a community."

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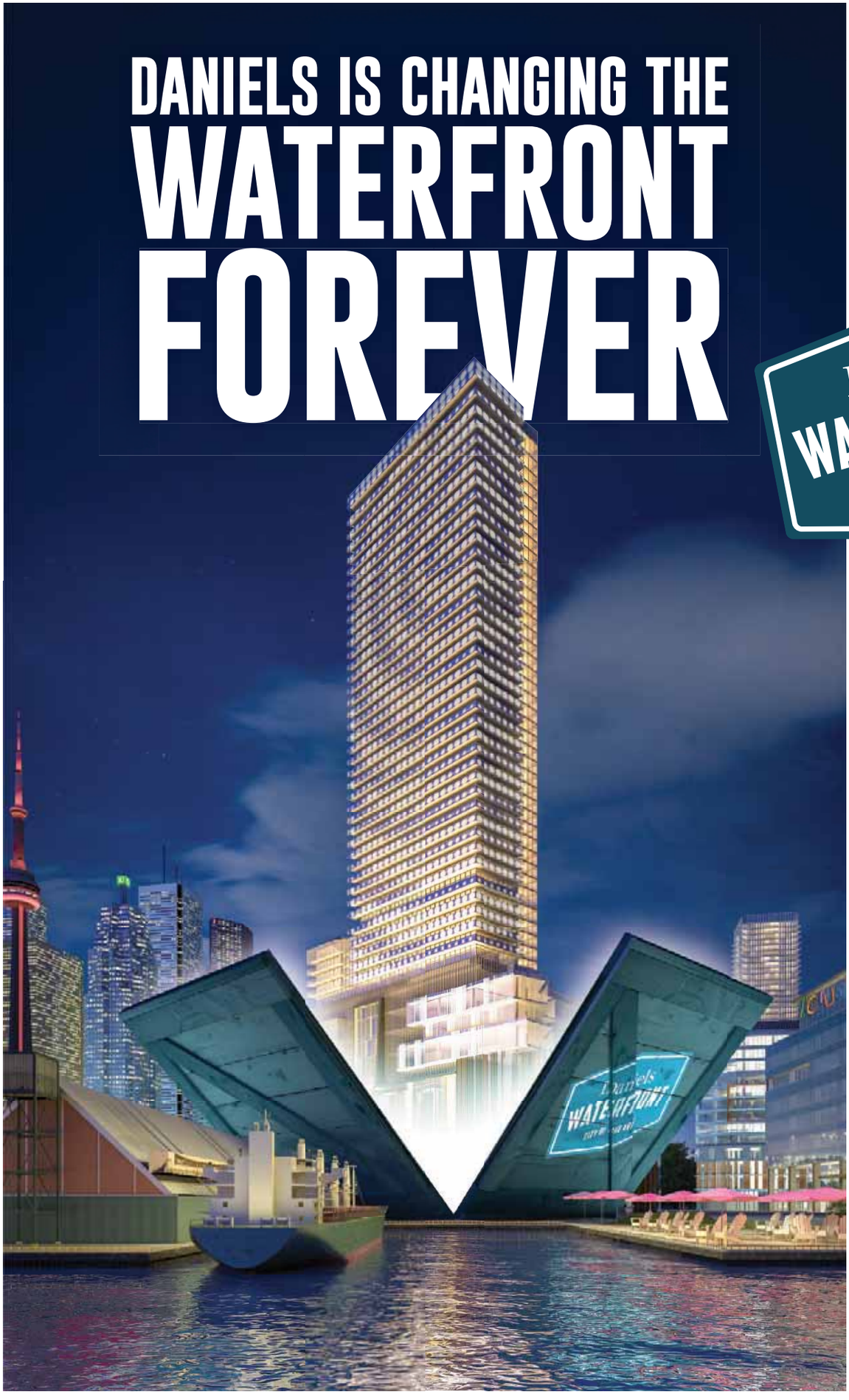

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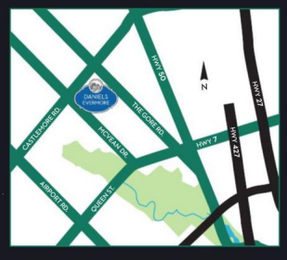

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East Core rising: The city's other side

CONDO TRENDS

Two developers unveil grand plans for sites east of Yonge

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

After decades of intense condo development west of Toronto's downtown core, developers now shift their focus to some of the city's oldest and most eclectic neighbourhoods east of Yonge Street.

The East Core is home to some of downtown's coolest and creative neighbourhoods, both old and new. The urban renewal taking place east of Yonge is undeniable in areas like the West Don Lands, the Waterfront, the Distillery District, Corktown and Leslieville.

Two recent announcements have set the stage for what is shaping up to be another great condo neighbourhood.

Last week, Daniels took the wraps off the plans for their impressive City of the Arts project, a dynamic new community and gateway to East Bayfront along Toronto's eastern waterfront.

The site of the old Guvernment Nightclub will be transformed into a 1,320,000 square foot live-work-play-learn-create community that combines significant office, retail, residential, academic and cultural components within two phases on the site.

The $700,000,000 mixed-use development will host a broad spectrum of media platforms complementing Toronto's reputation for arts, culture and innovation.

The first phase will include two commercial office towers, a "creative industries hub" and a large retail component.

The second phase will consist of 650,000 square feet of residential space with 900 suites in two towers, as well as another 240,000 square feet allotted for post-secondary academic use.

And a few blocks north of that is East United, a new, 21-storey building located at 93 Berkeley St. It's an aversion to conformity that attracted the team of SigNature Communities, Berkshire Axis Development and Andiel Homes to the corner of Berkeley and King.

"One of the things that really drove us to the east end of Toronto was how eclectic the neighbourhood really is." says SigNature Communities VP, Sebastian Mizzi. "We're not trying to create anything new, we're trying to embrace what's already there."

With a residential site spanning from Berkeley to Parliament, a pedestrian mews running along the south end of the building will connect the two streets with an intimate space, allowing for six, two-storey townhomes to be added to the property.

"It's definitely a statement. We're saying there is a new, design-driven future for the east end," says project architect Ralph Giannone, principal of Giannone Petricone Associates.

The Parliament side sees a stylized, five-storey podium that interacts with the industrial buildings to the south. Along Berkeley, a preserved heritage building enables East United to blend in with the scale of its surroundings.

A conceptual rendering of the exterior of East United, a 21-storey building to be located at 93 Berkeley St.

A vision of what the $700-million City of the Arts project will look like upon completion.

> **"We're not trying to create anything new, we're trying to embrace what's already there**
> Sebastian Mizzi, VP of SigNature Communities

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Don't feel condoomed

THE MARKET

No one said it's easy, but a great condo rental in T.O. can be found

Melissa Dunne
For Metro

Jacob Astin and his girlfriend, Monique Chelsom, in their condo rental near King and Bathurst streets. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Trying to find a place to rent in this city can be dizzying. Look up and all you see is glass condos.

Look down and you spy excavators digging more. But when you look online, there is little to choose from — condos or otherwise. Feeling queasy yet?

Despite all those cranes cluttering the skyline the vacancy rate has remained at less than two per cent for years. The rents can make your eyes pop. To top it off, traditional rental apartments have become scarce as developers build condos over apartments buildings. Condos account for a whopping 99 per cent of new rental supply in the GTA, according to condo research-firm Urbanation.

That's led to a shift in the landscape for renters. New rental units on the market tend to be condos — roughly a quarter of condo units are leased out, according to a 2011 Statistics Canada report — making investors increasingly the new landlords.

It's easy to get vertigo trying to find a place amongst the highrises. There aren't really deals, but, according to some successful renters and real estate experts, it is possible to lessen the pain of the hunt and snag the perfect place.

Hire help: Jacob Astin tried the usual methods when he relocated to Toronto just over a year ago. The 40-year-old airline pilot and his girlfriend, Monique Chelsom, a 35-year-old tech worker, checked listings through online services such as PadMapper and Kijiji while still in Calgary. They got a sense of what Toronto had to offer and what they could get for their budget, but quickly learned in Toronto's competitive rental market it can take more than a quick Google search to find The One.

So Astin and Chelsom hired a real estate expert. "It was nice to have a guide," says Astin.

Seventy to 80 per cent of condo apartments for rent are only listed on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), says Toronto real estate agent Jarrod Armstrong, whose wife and fellow agent, Karolina, worked with the couple. A realtor can quickly search MLS and set up multiple viewings for one day.

An expert can also ensure you find a reputable investor/landlord and help you navigate the paperwork.

The best part? Using knowledgeable professionals usually doesn't cost renters a dime since the owner of the property generally pays the commission.

Don't fear commitment: Buildings in Ontario that were built, or came onto the rental market, after Nov. 1, 1991, are not subject to rent control. That means if you sign a typical one-year lease, after your first year in your gorgeous condo the rent could skyrocket.

Armstrong advises offering to sign a longer initial lease. The owner of a property would rather have a paying, reliable tenant over an empty unit with no rent coming in, he says.

Do the math: Astin and Chelsom eventually settled on a one-bedroom, plus den, near King and Bathurst streets, which they adore.

The proximity to the King streetcar, as well as a balcony with lines for a BBQ, have them swooning. But if you drive and rarely grill these are not the extras for you. Make a list of the amenities you would actually use, such as a gym and parking.

As a rule your housing costs should be no more than 35 per cent of your net income, according to Metro's money maven Gail Vaz-Oxlade.

Know that number before you fall head over heels for a place with granite countertops and a salt-water pool that is way out of your price range.

Location, location, location
An apartment outside of the core will typically cost you less, says David Fleming, a real estate agent and author of the Toronto Realty Blog. And a unit in an older traditional apartment building, with fewer or no amenities, will also be cheaper. Anja Arvo, 40, and her husband, Alan Contreras, 36, were in an older building in the established Forest Hill area.

Realtor Olenka Mallon pointed the couple to a newer building with perks like a pool in an up-and-coming area in south Etobicoke.

The owner of their rental condo is selling so Mallon recently helped them find another condo to rent in the same waterfront neighbourhood they have come to love.

The couple just got the keys this week and are excited by the view and the brand new amenities, such as a fitness centre and sauna

Mallon tells it like it (unfortunately) is: "You're looking at $2,000 per month for a one-bedroom right in the downtown core."

If your budget is closer to $1,500 then you'll have to go further afield, say out to the Fort York area, near Lakeshore and Bathurst, she notes.

Keep an eye on supply: When it comes to signing on the dotted line, you can try bargaining. But, sorry, Fleming says: "There's virtually no negotiating when renting a condo in Toronto." The number of condominium apartment starts in the city of Toronto did rise to 1,782 this January, up from 1,470 in January 2014, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. But, despite the construction spike demand will continue to outstrip supply, say the experts.

Do keep your eye on all that construction, though. When a brand-new building first starts renting the laws of supply and demand can work in your favour. Several similar units will flood the market at the same time, meaning there may be a bit of wiggle room to negotiate a slightly lower rent, says Armstrong.

Renting a condo in the Big Smoke is not cheap, but remains a popular option. If you enter your condo rental hunt with open eyes, some solid research and a little help, you too can score a home-sweet-rental-home way up high in the sky.

"There's virtually no negotiating when renting a condo in Toronto
David Fleming

1.3%

The condo apartment vacancy rate in Toronto tightened to 1.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2014, compared with 1.7 in the same period in 2013. The vacancy rate has been below two per cent for years, sitting at 1.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2012 and 1.3 per cent in the same period in 2011.

$1,609

The average condo apartment one-bedroom rent in the fourth quarter of 2014, up from $1,498 in the fourth quarter of 2010.

SOURCES: TORONTO REAL ESTATE BOARD AND CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORP.

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MEET THE DEVELOPMENT

Oakvillage features open floor plans

Project overview

Oakville's newest master-planned residential community, Oakvillage, is a collection of freehold and condominium townhomes surrounded by urban amenities and outdoor living. A selection of open floor plans include master retreats, rooftop terraces and finished basements.

Building amenities

The units will feature rooftop "sky yards" and a variety of fixtures and finishes such as functional pantries, under-cabinet iPad mounts, organizer drawers and pull-out bins. Bathrooms offer premium finishes with ceramic tile floors and cultured marble counters, floating vanities and soaker tubs.

In the neighbourhood

The community is surrounded by shops, restaurants and services, including the Smartcentres Oakville, located right across the street. Oakvillage has a 1.5-kilometre scenic trail that runs through the community and is surrounded by Oakville's 300-km trail system.

Location and transit

Oakvillage is located at the northeast corner of Trafalgar Road and Dundas St. East in Oakville. Residents can take advantage of the Milton and Oakville GO bus routes at the corner, and commuters have quick access to highways 403, 407 and the QEW.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Oakvillage
Builder: Minto Communities and Branthaven Homes
Architect: RN Design and Branthaven Homes
Location: Dundas Street East and Trafalgar Road in Oakville
Building: 450 units of two- and three-storey townhomes
Sizes: From 1,190 to 2,175 square feet
Pricing: Starting from the $400,000s
Suites: West Coast contemporary and traditional styled homes
Status: Pre-construction
Occupancy: Fall 2016
Sales Centre: 351 Dundas St. East, Oakville
Info: 844-295-3239; info@oakvillage.ca; oakvillage.ca

ADVICE

Exploiting condo ownership

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan

Q: I live in a condo building where my neighbour across the way sends out yearly flyers stating that he is a qualified air conditioning technician and that he is available to service the individual units that are in each condo. Every year we hear hammering from other units and it is disturbing. Is this legal and how can we stop him from doing this?

A: It's not really a question of it being legal, but more an issue that your neighbour is taking advantage of his ownership status to obtain business.

I assume that a number of your neighbours hire him to do their annual maintenance. If he is doing a good job and they are satisfied, then it's probably something you should ignore. After all, A/C units require regular maintenance.

If this is advertising for services that are unwanted and it is bothersome to you, then you should bring your concerns to your board of directors who can then require your neighbour to stop his annual advertising campaign.

If your other neighbours want to continue to hire him, there is not much you can do about it.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 DOWNTOWN

Now open: The new presentation gallery for the Residences of 488 University Avenue has just launched and is open seven days a week. Check it out at 393 University Ave., in downtown Toronto.

CONTACT: 416-252-3000, 488UNIVERSITY.COM

2 NORTH YORK

Preview opening: Register now to attend the priority preview of 5959 Yonge St. condos by Ghods Builders on Yonge Street north of Finch in North York. Visit the presentation centre at 5959 Yonge St.

CONTACT: 416-222-5959, GHODSBUILDERS.COM

3 LAKE SHORE

New release: The new model suite at 11 Superior condos will be unveiled this week along with a new release of suites near the waterfront in Mimico. Head over to the presentation centre at 2398 Lake Shore Blvd. West.

CONTACT: 647-560-0797, ELEVENSUPERIOR.COM

BUILDING TRENDS

Why prospective homeowners should consider buying new

Bryan Tuckey

Home ownership is a universal concept that symbolizes success and prosperity. It's one of the reasons up to 100,000 people choose to make the GTA their home every year.

But there's a significant difference between buying new and buying resale, with new condominiums holding a number of advantages on several key fronts.

First and foremost, new homes offer purchasers complete customization from myriad designs, patterns and finishes. Condo purchasers can choose how high up they want to live, while things like flooring, cabinetry or countertops can be picked just by pointing to your favourite package on display at the sales centre. This is great because it allows new condo buyers to invest their money in whatever works best for them.

Another distinct advantage of buying new is the fact that what you see is what you get. A new home buyer doesn't have to worry about any unwelcome surprises that went unnoticed during the showing or even the home inspection.

The homes are built from the ground up, customized to your liking and protected by a Tarion warranty for the following seven years.

All new homes built in the GTA today must abide by the strict regulations of the Ontario Building Code, which is updated every five years with the latest standards, specifications and energy efficiency requirements.

I am proud to say that many of the homes built by BILD members not only meet these requirements, but often exceed them. This is particularly the case when it comes to building green — 32 per cent of all new homes built in Ontario last year were Energy Star-qualified, which translates into significant savings on homeowners' monthly utility bills.

It's worth pointing out that many of these homes have won provincial, national and international awards in design, planning and customer service.

Our members employ internationally renowned architects and designers, as well as a variety of local talent. New homes in the GTA rival some of the best in the world.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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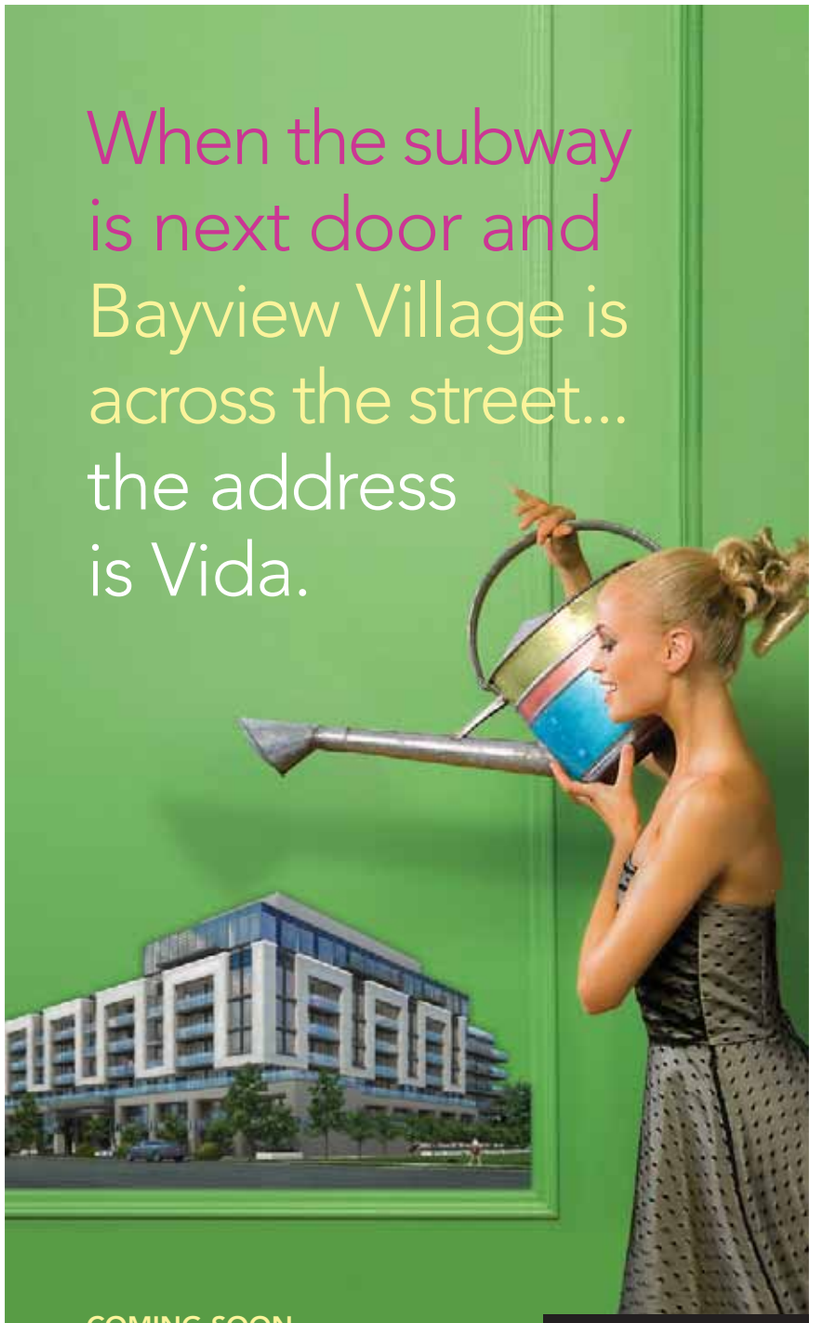
When the subway is next door and Bayview Village is across the street... the address is Vida.



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Store it with style

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

The time for spring cleaning and organizing is upon us. Like me, you may have accumulated more than you thought over the long winter months. Here are some fashionable and useful ways to store treasures in style.

In the clear

So many ugly packages to deal with. Empty their contents into an airtight container and keep everything in plain, and tidy, view. OXO Pop containers, from $11, CrateAndBarrel.com

A natural touch

Warm up the inside of those kitchen drawers with natural bamboo. Variera bamboo flatware tray, $20, IKEA.com

Maximize your closet

Keep it organized in those condo dens with an instant closet organizer. Nebula by Bestar 80" storage cabinet, $920, Walmart.ca

Clothes keeper

Add some style to that dirty laundry. Portman faux leather laundry hamper, $99, UrbanBarn.com

Under the mattress

Under-bed storage means up to two less dressers in the bedroom. Drake bed, from $1850, UrbanMode.com

Multi-purpose surface

Rest your feet, eat your dinner and use the storage. Arlington lift-top storage ottoman, $169, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

What they're a$king

This week we look at pre-construction and new two-bedroom condominium suites in and around the downtown core. Buying a new condo from floor plans is a great way to save money and realize a profit down the road.

Duncan McAllister FOR METRO

TORONTO

$635,000

This sum gets you a two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit in downtown Toronto. Casa II is located at 42 Charles Ave., south of Bloor Street. The suite sits on the 33rd floor and has 763 square feet of interior space and a wraparound balcony that provides an additional 309 square feet of outdoor space. Contact listing agent Alex J. Wilson with Royal LePage Supreme Realty at 416-535-8000.

VANCOUVER

$485,900

The Park Metrotown by the Intergulf Development Group is located steps from Bonsor Park and the Metropolis in the heart of downtown Metrotown, a suburb of Vancouver. A two-bedroom condo in this building goes for $485,900. The condo, designed by Chris Dikeakos Architects, is under construction with a fall 2016 move-in date. Contact the sales centre at 604-936-1888.

CALGARY

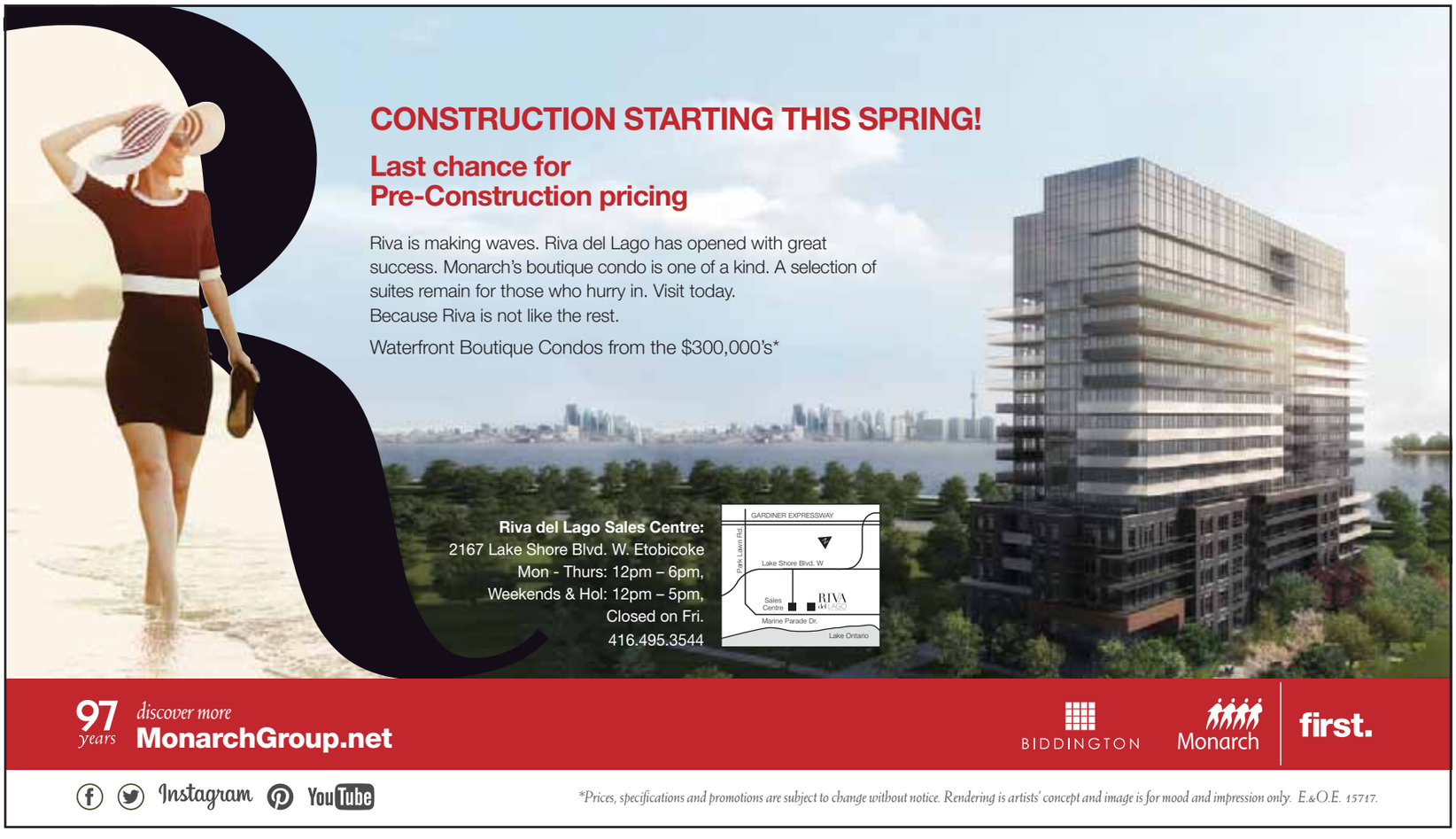
$492,900

Smith is a boutique, 129-unit highrise and townhome development by Grosvenor. Designed by award-winning BKDI Architects, the 18-storey building is located in the desirable Calgary Beltline neighbourhood, near 17th Avenue, Calgary's retail and entertainment district. The G Plan starts at $492,900 for a two-bedroom, 855-square-foot suite that includes one parking stall. Contact the presentation centre at 403-264-1703.

HALIFAX

$339,900

Southport is a sleek, new midrise condominium located where the city's historic South End meets the Port of Halifax. This is Urban Capital's first project out east, in partnership with Killam Properties. Located at 1057 Barrington St., the building has 142 units on six storeys. The largest unit is a 902-square-foot one-bedroom plus den, which goes for $339,900. Contact the sales centre at 902-456-5727.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metro SPORTS

Serena Williams won her 700th match, topping Sabine Lisicki at the Miami Open

Thursday, April 2, 2015

Young Jays nudged out of the nest

2015 SEASON PREVIEW

Inexperienced arms will shoulder plenty of responsibility

The Blue Jays opened spring training with a roster full of question marks.

"As strong as we are and as good as we feel about this team, there's some questions that need to be answered in spring training," Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

More than five weeks later, they come north with answers. Fans are about to find out if Gibbons and general manager Alex Anthopoulos ticked the right boxes.

The 2015 Blue Jays showcase some key veteran additions in catcher Russell Martin, third baseman Josh Donaldson and (currently injured) outfielder Michael Saunders — and a whole lot of youth.

The starting rotation includes Aaron Sanchez (22) and Daniel Norris (21) while the bullpen could feature 20-year-olds Miguel Castro and Roberto Osuna. Devon Travis, 23, starts at second base while Dalton Pompey (22) patrols centre field.

Drew Hutchison, 24, will open the season on the mound for the Jays in his 44th career start.

Sanchez has 24 games of big-league experience, Pompey 17 and Norris five. Castro, Osuna and Travis are true rookies.

Castro is a six-foot-five Dominican flame-thrower who has not pitched above Class-A ball. But the Jays organization loves his ability to find the strike zone at pace — Anthopoulos said the first time he saw Castro pitch in Vancouver, he thought the speed gun was stuck at 98 m.p.h.

Mexico's Osuna also has Jays officials enthusing.

The 25-man roster is not set in stone. The Jays have said they are still mulling over the merits of a seven- or eight-man bullpen. Should they decide on seven, infielder Ryan Goins is likely to be the benefactor, although that decision may not be made for some weeks.

1993

According to Sportsnet Stats, Miguel Castro and Roberto Osuna could become the first Blue Jays born after Toronto's last World Series win in 1993.

The Jays kick off the season Monday in New York against the Yankees. Five games and a stop in Baltimore later, they host the Tampa Bay Rays. The April 13 home opener is the first of 10 games in 11 days at the Rogers Centre.

Hutchison, Sanchez and Norris will be joined in the starting rotation by veterans R.A. Dickey and Mark Buehrle.

While right-fielder Jose Bautista continues to be king of the Jays castle, the clubhouse seemed more accessible this spring with the arrival of the affable Martin. The $82-million US catcher chatted in English and French, openly discussed the challenges of catching Dickey's knuckleball and even showed off his many gloves.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons watches Miguel Castro, the heat-throwing Domincan 20-year-old set to come out of Toronto's bullpen this season. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When Bautista looked around the room early in preseason, he saw a group that was "maybe an uptick or two more competitive than some guys that have been here in the past."

Bautista, 34, likes teammates who wear their hearts on their sleeve. A fierce competitor, he knows time is running out.

"The personal success has been great in the last five or six years but you crave to win," he said. "I've never experienced it but I guarantee you it's a better feeling sacrificing some personal success for some team success. I just haven't been in that position ever before but I would make that trade any day."

"The personal success has been great in the last five or six years, but you crave to win.
Jose Bautista

This season marks the swan song of president and CEO Paul Beeston, the franchise's first employee. The future of Anthopoulos and Gibbons will likely also be decided in 2015 as the Jays, third in the AL East with an 83-79 record last season, look to reach the promised land of the playoffs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2015 STARTERS

Aaron Sanchez RHP

Age: 22
MLB games started: 0
MLB innings pitched: 33.0
MLB ERA: 1.09

Daniel Norris LHP

Age: 21
MLB games started: 1
MLB innings pitched: 6.2
MLB ERA: 5.40

Drew Hutchison RHP

Age: 24
MLB games started: 43
MLB innings pitched: 243.1
MLB ERA: 4.51

R.A. Dickey RHP

Age: 40
MLB games started: 207
MLB innings pitched: 1,499.2
MLB ERA: 3.98

Mark Buehrle LHP

Age: 36
MLB games started: 461
MLB innings pitched: 3,084.2
MLB ERA: 3.81

PHOTOS BY TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL

Leafs no match for league-worst Sabres

Matt Moulson and Matt Ellis scored 1:41 apart in the third period, and the Buffalo Sabres rallied for a 4-3 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday night.

The Sabres overcame a 3-1 second-period deficit and won their second straight, inching closer to moving out of last place. Zac Dalpe and Cody Hodgson also scored in a matchup of cross-border rivals.

Buffalo (22-47-8) moved to within two points of 29th-place Arizona.

WEDNESDAY In Buffalo

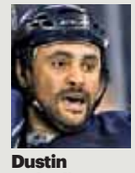
4	3
SABRES	LEAFS

James van Riemsdyk, Eric Brewer and Nazem Kadri scored for Toronto (29-43-6), which missed a chance to win three straight for the first time since December. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jets could lose Byfuglien

The Winnipeg Jets may be without defenceman Dustin Byfuglien for key games in their drive for the playoffs.



Dustin Byfuglien THE CANADIAN PRESS

Byfuglien is facing a suspension of up to five games after delivering a vicious cross-check to the back of New York Rangers centre J.T. Miller on Tuesday night.

Simmons locks 1-2 clash

Canada's Pat Simmons rebounded from his first loss at the world men's curling championship in Halifax by winning a pair of games Wednesday, locking up a spot in the Page playoff 1-2 game in the process.

The top two seeds meet Friday night in the 1-2 game for a berth in the final.

The third and fourth seeds will meet in Saturday's 3-4 game with the winner to advance to the semifinal against the loser of the 1-2 game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

Man shot in face by Hernandez testifies

A man who sued Aaron Hernandez over being shot in the face in Florida took the stand in the former New England Patriots player's murder trial.

But prosecutors were not allowed to ask Alexander Bradley about the shooting, which happened a few months before the June 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd. The defence tried unsuccessfully to block Bradley's testimony.

Bradley said Wednesday, outside the presence of the jury, that Hernandez often said helicopters and police were following him, but the judge ruled that Bradley could not testify about that.

Instead, Bradley was allowed to tell jurors about how Hernandez had said he had a difficult time trusting people, including his friends.

Hernandez has pleaded not guilty in the June 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA RAPTORS VICTIMIZE T-WOLVES Amir Johnson, left, of the Raptors and the Timberwolves' Adreian Payne race for a loose ball on Wednesday night in Minneapolis, Minn. Seven Raptors players reached double-digits in scoring in a 113-99 win. Toronto has now won three straight games.
JIM MONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Krzyzewski adapts to one-and-dones

NCAA BASKETBALL

Duke's Coach K has fostered five freshman departures

There was a time when Duke's Mike Krzyzewski led Final Four teams built around players who stayed for years to grow into tournament-tested veterans.

No longer, not in today's one-and-done world in which top players rarely stick around long.

The Blue Devils enter this week's Final Four relying on more freshman starters than John Calipari at Kentucky's NBA factory. The Blue Devils have three freshman players who face stay-or-go decisions after the season.

"What Coach K has done in my judgment, and I think Calipari has done the same thing, they've adapted to the landscape, and they are dealing with it in a positive way," said Jay Bilas, an ESPN analyst who played on Krzyzewski's first Final Four team in 1986.

"Now people want to use value judgments to it and say, 'This is not the way it's supposed to be' and 'This is antithetical to college.' Well, says who?"

Krzyzewski, the Hall of Famer in his 35th season at Duke and the winningest coach in men's Division I history with 1,016 wins, didn't have a player go pro early for nearly two decades.

Then in 1999, two Blue Devils bolted early: Elton Brand opted to enter the draft after his sophomore season and freshman Corey Maggette became Krzyzewski's first of five one-and-done players.

Luol Deng (2004), Kyrie Irving (2011), Austin Rivers (2012) and Jabari Parker (2014) followed in Maggette's lead.

It's forced the 68-year-old Krzyzewski to adjust his approach compared to the days when Christian Laettner, Bobby Hurley and Grant Hill were four-year guys.

"It actually starts before they get here," Krzyzewski said.

"We try with the kids, especially if they commit early, to develop even a deeper relationship with them than we did 10 years ago. You had time (then). You want to know them even better because you're only going to have them for a shorter period of time."

Duke (33-4) is built around star freshman big man Jahlil Okafor, a possible No. 1 overall pick who chose Duke jointly with point guard Tyus Jones. Forward Justise Winslow is the other every-game freshman starter.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike Krzyzewski
GETTY IMAGES

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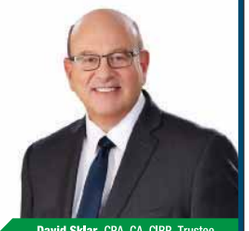

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1) Fernando Manuel De Oliveira Martins
203-243 Clyde Road, Cambridge, ON. N1R 1L2
2) Glenston Henry 38 Swansea Mews, Toronto, ON. M6S 4V2
3) Javier Navarro 10 Dora Avenue Apt.516, Toronto, ON. M6H 4J2

According to the Lease by and between the customers listed above and All Canadian Self-Storage and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit(s). UPON. A COURSORY INSPECTION. THE UNITS WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN: Household goods. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of at this site on dates and at approximate times listed by the Addresses above to satisfy owner lien in accordance with the state statues. Terms of the sale are cash only. No checks will be accepted. All goods are sold in "as is" condition. Tax must be paid or resale numbers furnished. Buyers Must provide own lock if needed. Seller reserves the right to overbid. All items Or spaces may not be available on date of sale.

RECIPE Portobello Pitas with Red Bell Pepper Hummus and Goat Cheese

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
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@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 12
Cook time: 12

Directions

1. To make the filling: On either a barbecue or a non-stick grill pan sprayed with cooking spray, grill the mushrooms over medium-high heat for 12 minutes, turning halfway or until tender and grill marked. Spray the mushrooms with vegetable spray if they look dry. Slice into thick slices.

2. To make the hummus: In the bowl of a small food processor, combine the chickpeas, roasted red pepper, tahini, lemon juice, olive oil, water, garlic and chili sauce. Purée until smooth. Garnish with parsley.

3. Spread the inside of the pita halves with the hummus. Place half of the mushroom slices in each pita, sprinkle with cheese, and garnish with lettuce, tomatoes and onions.

Ingredients

•3 large portobello mushroom caps, wiped (stems removed)

¾ cup Red Bell Pepper Hummus:
• ½ cup canned chickpeas, drained and rinsed
• ¼ cup roasted red pepper (about ½ small roasted red pepper)
• 1½ tbsp tahini (sesame seed paste)
• 1 tbsp lemon juice
• 1 tbsp olive oil
• 2 tsp water
• ½ tsp finely chopped garlic
• ½ tsp hot chili sauce
• 2 tbsp chopped parsley for garnish

Wraps:
• 3 medium-sized pitas, sliced in half
• ½ cup crumbled goat cheese (2 oz)
• lettuce
• sliced tomatoes
• sliced onions

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

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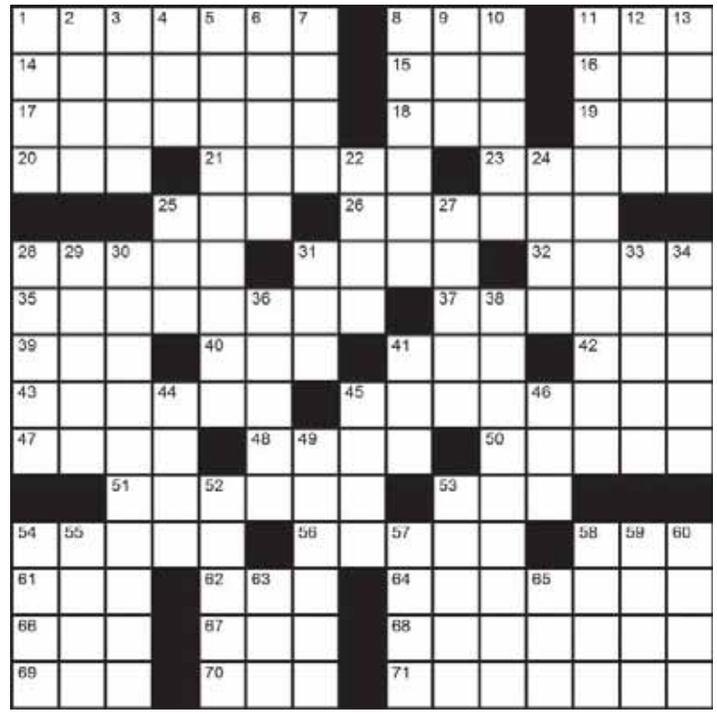

ACROSS
1. Ukrainian Easter egg (More at #30-Down!)
8. Texter's polite abbr.
11. Company abbr.
14. Ticklish music keys
15. Fair-hiring letters
16. Lionel Richie's "You __"
17. Measure of quality/excellence
18. South: French
19. "Glee" character
20. 'Meth' suffix
21. Actress Sonia
23. Enroll
25. Guileful
26. Earthy pigments
28. Fleetwood Mac's Christine
31. South Dakota dam
32. Town, colloquially
35. Restaurant kitchen VIP's uniform part: 2 wds.
37. Unclose again
39. __ and Magog (Hostile nations in Revelation)
40. 'To hear' in Spanish
41. Little: French
42. Ms. Zadora
43. Wayward
45. Eggs one day, perhaps
47. Paradise
48. Company dept. heads
50. Abrasive
51. Hangout for grapes
53. Ms. Wray
54. Guitarist Mr. Richards
56. Certain ISP user
58. Grand __ (Wine designation)
61. Cobbler's tool
62. Gossip columnist Ms. Smith
64. Baltimore __ (MLB team)
66. Address book no.
67. Yalie
68. Painted-ceiling Chapel for Michelangelo
69. Poet's 'before'
70. Riddle-me-__
71. Body decorations

DOWN
1. Type size
2. Hockey great Mr. Cournoyer
3. Fish kind
4. Jackie O's hubby
5. Consumes food, bunny rabbit style: 2 wds.
6. "Scandal" star Ms. Washington
7. On the Pacific
8. Passover
9. Mr. Reed
10. As per #8-Down... when The Four Questions are asked
11. The __ __ (Late-1490s masterpiece by Leonardo da Vinci)
12. Unfeigned
13. Red __, Alberta
22. Capricorn animal
24. Biblical mount
25. Wife of Thor
27. Whitesnake's "__ __ Go Again"
28. Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby __"
29. Something strummed
30. Alberta town which is home to the largest #1-Across in the world
31. Paddle
33. Horseridder's hold-ees
34. Grind teeth
36. Pat Benatar's "__ __ with Your Best Shot" (Trivia! It was written by Canadian musician Eddie Schwartz)
38. Holy Communion
41. Acidity measures, commonly
44. Have __ to pick
45. Prefix that's 'Freezing'
46. Round Table knight
49. Santa Maria delle __ (Milan church where the mural at #11-Down is located)
52. Edmonton Oiler, e.g.
53. Hair dye brand
54. Ms. Hudson
55. Spouted water container
57. Confused
58. Muse of history
59. Vegas alternative
60. Functions
63. Island: French
65. Baseball's Mel

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The Sun's alliance with Jupiter today means you will come up with a solution to a problem before others even realize that a problem exists. It's an advantage, personally and professionally.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will say the right thing in the right way today, especially when dealing with people in positions of power. However, you don't need to boast, they will learn over the next few days.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will find it easy to convince others to agree with you over the next 24 hours, not because you are forceful but because you know what words push what buttons for maximum effect.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something unexpected will happen today, something that comes at you out of the blue. It may be annoying if it disrupts your plans but you won't be negative about it for long.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You don't need to justify what you believe or what you are doing to anyone. Fortunately, with your ruler the Sun linked to Jupiter in your sign today no one will question you. They simply won't dare!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't wait for others to make decisions for you: make them yourself and, if anyone disapproves, so what? Anyone who thinks you can be intimidated is in for the shock of their lives.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may have no idea how you reach certain conclusions today but don't doubt them for a moment. Your mind is open on a much higher level now, insights are to be expected.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If ever there was a right time to try something new that time is now. You are more adventurous than a lot of people give you credit for. Be bold.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today's link between the Sun and your ruling planet Jupiter means you can get away with almost anything. No, that is not an invitation to break the law but you can push the boundaries a bit.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more others say you should be careful the more determined you will be to take some kind of risk. Are you right or are they right? You will have fun finding out.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your confidence in your own abilities today will be on a different level than everyone else. The Sun's link with Jupiter means you no longer know what the word "cannot" means. You can do anything.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you are finding it hard to make up your mind about something then don't force it. Others may be pushing you to make a quick decision but only because it benefits them in some way

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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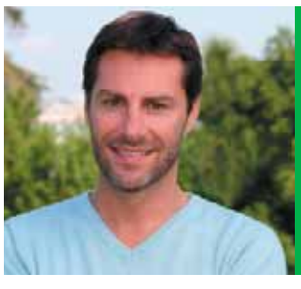

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GLS model shown♦

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HWY: 9.8L/100 KM
CITY: 12.9L/100 KM▼

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Sport 2.0T model shown♦

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